

מרכז עולמי מרבנים יוצאי אירופא
מחלקת "גדר אבות"

התכתבות תש"כ – תש"מ

WORLD-CENTER OF EUROPEAN RABBIS
SECTION GEDER AVOT

CORRESPONDENCE 1960 – 1980

Embassy
of the
Federal Republic of Germany
Washington, D. C.
The Minister Counselor

March 8, 1961

Rabbi M. J. Rubin
332 East Beech Street
Long Beach, New York

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 20, 1961 in which you informed me of the most generous and moving initiative to be taken by your Congregation.

I am convinced that every municipal, Laender or Federal authority in Germany will only be too ready to cooperate with your endeavour of restoring Jewish cemeteries.

However, the matter of furnishing you with an official authorization to repair fences around these cemeteries or of erecting new fences is not one that rests with the Federal authorities in Germany. In the first place the question concerns the owners of the cemeteries; for the most part these are probably the local Jewish communities. If any building permits should be requested - of which I am not certain - this will only be a formality to be discussed with the local administrative authorities ("Stadtverwaltungen" - municipalities or "Kreisverwaltungen" - district administrations). Also, in some of the Lander of the Federal Republic there are - as far as I know - programs in existence for the restoration of Jewish cemeteries from public funds as a restitution service. Details of such arrangements - if any - can be obtained from the Ministries of Education and Cults in the various Lander. I have in any case transmitted your letter to the Federal Foreign Office in Bonn.

In addition, I would advise you to communicate prior to your departure for Germany with the "Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland" (Central Board of Jews in Germany) at Duesseldorf, Fischerstrasse 49. This organization's Secretary General

is Dr. Hendrik George van Dam. Its phone number
is Duesseldorf 448697.

Do not hesitate to let me know if I can be of
any further assistance in connection with your forth-
coming trip to Germany. I am writing this letter on
behalf of the Ambassador who is in Germany on official
business.

Very sincerely yours,

F. K. M.



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

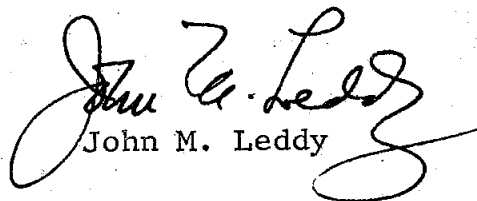
Dear Mrs. Kelly:

Thank you for your letter of March 8 in which you indicate your interest in the restoration of Jewish cemeteries in Europe, a matter which recently was brought to your attention by Rabbi M. J. Rubin.

It is our understanding that the Federal German Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Bonn is actively considering the question of the restoration of Jewish cemeteries. We obtained this information recently from the German Embassy, at which time we indicated to the Embassy our interest in an equitable and prompt solution to this problem. We have also sent copies of previous correspondence on this subject to our Embassy in Bonn so that they could follow this matter.

Please be assured of my interest in this matter. If you should wish additional information, please do not hesitate to write me.

Sincerely yours,


John M. Leddy

The Honorable
Edna F. Kelly,
House of Representatives.

01/03/16
Kalen

السلامة

RESIDENCE
385 GRAND STREET
Apt. L-103
NEW YORK 2, N. Y.
TEL. OREGON 4-2540

[illegible]

בי"ה, ט"ו תמוז, ה'תשכ"א
ברוקלין, נ. י

הרה"ג והרה"ח וו"ח אי"א נוי"נ עוסק בצ"צ כו

מוה"ר משה יוסף שי רובין

נשיא אגודת הרבנים ברומניא לפנים

שלום וברכה!

במענה למכתבו ושיחתנו בענין מפעל תיקון הגדרים בבתי החיים בקהלות באירופא שנחרבו
ונתרוקנו בעוה"ר בימי המלחמה והשואה ר"ל

אמינא לפעלא טבא יישר, וגדול יקרא דשיכבא ובנידון דידן גם יקרא דחיי

ואם כל חסד שעושים עם המתים הוא חסד של אמת שהוא למעלה מתשלום גמול, כ"א שנותנים
לו מלמעלה (בדרך מתנה) בחי חסד של אמת הבלתי מוגבל, ואפילו אם עושה דבר קטן הערך
וכמו שייל אבא וזבילא לקבורה

על אחת כמה וכמה בענין האמור גדול הערך, ונוגע לאלפים מישראל ובמיוחד שיש בזה ענין של
קידוש השם, שלא יהא שם ישראל מחולל בעמים

וחזק בטחוני שמפעל זה ימצא הד נכון בלבבות אחינו בני ישראל להתנדב ברוח נדיבה לביצועו -
לגדור הפרצות בבתי עלמין ולבנות הנהרסות

עדי יקויים יעוד אד-ני ה': הנה אני פותח את קברותיכם והעליתי אתכם גוי ונתתי רוחי בכם
וחייתם

בכבוד ובברכה

מנחם שניאורסאהן

במחנה נעמי למטה וליקחם
במחנה נעמי למטה וליקחם
במחנה נעמי למטה וליקחם

הרב מרדכי שלום יוסף פרידמאן

סאדאגורא

בעזה"ל תל אביב רחוב בצלאל יפה 10

MORDECAI S. J. FRIEDMANN

RABBI OF SADAGORA

400 CROWN STREET

BROOKLYN 25, N. Y.

SLOCUM 6-2829

ב"ה כ"ט אלול תשכ"א

למעלת כבוד ידידי וידידי ישראל
איש חי ורב פעלים בנש"ק
הח"ג ר' משה יוסף רובין שליט"א

לחשובת מכתבו היקר בצירוף הקו"ק לאחב"י אודות חיקון
מצבות קברי ישראל באירופה וגם אודות פעולות של מרכז הדבנים
הנקרא "גדר האבות" אף ידי תכון עמהם להצטרף לפעולתם הכרוכה
ולבקש מאת כל הסרים למשמעתי והשומעים עצתי להצטרף גם הם
להשתתף בתרומות ובעזרה של השתדלות וזכות המצוה הרבה העמוד
לחם להכתב ולהחתם בספר חיים טובים לשנת טובה וברכה גאולה
וישועה. יכן וישן זור יצית ידיו לאלוהי אברהם ויראן העלמים זע רחמים

והסליחות זכות אברהם ואלוהי אברהם ואלוהי אברהם ואלוהי אברהם
ענינה והעלה ידיו וזעם. רחמים מקדו בנש"ק לא ואלוהי
אברהם ואלוהי אברהם ואלוהי אברהם ואלוהי אברהם

אס"ג/ר

מרכז העולמי מהרבנים יוצאי אירופה

WORLD - CENTER OF EUROPEAN RABBIS

Manhattan:
272 W. 86th St., New York, N. Y.

Long Island,
80, Maryland Ave., Long Beach, N. Y.
Jerusalem, Hoshea Str. 12, Israel

Canada:
Montreal, 494 Bloomfield Ave.

PRESIDIUM:

Rabbi M. Y. Rubin
Rabbi Z. Portugal
Rabbi Y. Yeruchem
Rabbi CH. Halberstam
Rabbi M. Steinberg

י"ח אייר ל"ג למבנ"י תשכ"ב, תל-אביב

חברי הנשיאות:

הרב משה יוסף רובין
מלפנים אבד"ק קימפאלונג
הרב מ. ז. פארטונאל
סקולני
הרב אהרן ירוחם
מלפנים אבד"ק אלטשטאדט
הרב יחזקאל האלבערשטאם
מלפנים אבד"ק לימאנאוו
הרב משה שטיינבערג
מלפנים אבד"ק בראד

שלום וברכה לכב' הדר"ג שליט"א

הננו להזמין בזה את מע"כ שליט"א להשתתף בכינוס העולמי של הרבנים יוצאי אירופה שיתקיים בעזה"ש בירושלים, ביום ג', כ"ה אייר תשכ"ב, בשעה 11 לפני הצהריים, באולם הישיבה "פורת יוסף", רחוב יוסף בן מתת' , פינת גאולה, ירושלים.

הכינוס יתפל בבטוח דלהלן :

- א. שמירתם של בתי קברות היהודים באירופה, במקומות שהקהלות נחרבו או נעזבו, והעלאת עצמותיהם של אחינו החללים שנקברו בקבר אחים במדברות ויערות, לארצנו הקדושה למנוחת עולמים.
 - ב. להדפיס ולפרסם את פנקסי הקהילות החברות ולהוציא לאור רשימות אשר תכלולנה את כל שמות הנספים, כדי להציב שם עולם למיליוני הקרבנות הקדושים.
 - ג. לעזור לפעולות ההצלה שמטרתן לפדות אלפי יתומים השבויים עדיין בארצות אירופה, ולדאוג שיועלו ארצה.
 - ד. להשיג פצויים אישיים למאות הרבנים יוצאי אירופה, אשר פרנסתם קרפחה עקב השואה.
- אנו מפנים את תשומת לבו לסעיף ד' ונבקשו להופיע אישית בכינוס הנ"ל, ופה ימסר לידו שאלון שעליו למלאות בכל הפרטים בנוגע לזכות הפצויים בעדו, יען כי הממשלה הגרמנית מבון דורשת רשימה מכל הרבנים החובעים פיצויים ובחנץ לשלוח הרשימה הזאת בעוד מועד.

הופעת כב' הרמה בכינוס הנ"ל היא בחוצה ורחופה למען תאפשר קביעת שמו בין הרשומים.

כ"ד הנו"ש ומברככם בהרמת קרן התורה ולרפד'.

הרב משה יוסף רובין

נשיא מרכז הרבנים יוצאי אירופה

בארה"ב וקנדה .

Rabbi Solomon Halberstam
OF BOBOV

שלמה הלברשטאם
אבד"ק באבוב

184 BROOKLYN AVENUE
BROOKLYN 13, N. Y.

SLocum 6-3160

יום ב' פ' בראשית

שלום וכל טוב אל כ' שאר בשרי וידידי הטוב
העסקן המפורסם איש חי ורב פעלים הרב הגאון
ר' משה יוסף רובין שליט"א אבד"ק קימפלינג יע"א

אחורשה"ט בירידות

יקרת מכתבו הגיעני לפני ימים הנוראים שעברו
ומפני שהייתי טרוד עם ההמונים שכאו, לא הי'
לי האפשרות לענותו עד עכשיו.

שמחתי מאד עם הידיעה על הכינוס המוצלח בירושלים עיה"ק
וברכתי החמה שה' יצליח דרכו במפעלו החשוב וילך מחיל
אל חיל בהלצחה רבה.

אודות הג' אלפים שמזכיר במכתבו, עד עתה לא הי' לי צורך
בהם. אכל עכשיו עש לי מקום בערם.

אם ישלח לי הסך הנ"ל, אז אשלח לו סכום מסוים בכל חודש
לפי התנאים שהותנו מקודם על צד היתר עיסקא.

בירידות חמה, דינא פולא

באמתה רבה ואינני מוכה לאל

שלמה הלברשטאם

DER STAATSSSEKRETAR
DES BUNDESKANZLERAMTES

3 - 53100 - 2661/63

53 BONN 1, den 29. Mai 1963

Postfach

Fernruf 20111/Hausruf:

An den

Präsidenten des Center of
European Rabbis in America

Herrn M.J. R u b i n

492 Bloomfield

Montreal / Canada

Sehr geehrter Herr Rubin!

Ich bin beauftragt, den Eingang Ihres an den Herrn Bundeskanzler gerichteten Telegramms vom 23. Mai 1963 dankend zu bestätigen. Für Ihr Anliegen ist innerhalb der Bundesregierung der Herr Bundesminister der Finanzen, der mit der Ausarbeitung einer Novelle zum Bundesentschädigungsgesetz derzeit befaßt ist, zuständig. Ich habe deshalb Ihr Telegramm an diesen weitergeleitet.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung

Im Auftrag

Stolzhauser

(Stolzhauser)

DER STAATSSSEKRETÄR
DES BUNDESKANZLERAMTES

3 - 53100 - 2661/63 II

53 BONN 1. den 2. Juli 1963

Postfach

Fernruf 20111/Hausruf:

An den

Präsidenten des Center of
European Rabbis in America

Herrn M.J. R u b i n

492 Bloomfield

Montreal / Canada

Sehr geehrter Herr Rubin !

Ich habe den Auftrag, den Empfang Ihres an den Herrn Bundeskanzler gerichteten Schreibens vom 5. Juni 1963 mit Dank zu bestätigen. Da dieses Schreiben die gleichen Fragen betrifft, die Sie bereits in Ihrem Telegramm vom 23. Mai 1963 angesprochen haben, wurde auch Ihre Eingabe vom 5. Juni dem Herrn Bundesminister der Finanzen zugeleitet. Auf meinen Brief vom 29. Mai 1963 darf ich dabei Bezug nehmen.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung

Im Auftrag

Stolzhauser

(Stolzhauser)

RABBI J. LEINER

1436 — 55TH STREET

BROOKLYN 19, N. Y.

TEL. ULSTER 1-8379

ירוחם ליינער

בהרח"ק מראדזין וולח"ה

ברוקלין נ. י.

כה"מ א' אסכך נעלה ונעמד "ש"ש קב"ל ברוקלין נ. י.

חיים ברכה ואלו ופ"ס אשכנזי הכתוב המזוהר בודני חסד

המאמרים בראש המעבר "גדר אבות" יצ"ו

אמרו חז"ל "אמרו אפילו טבא וול" מה גדלו מעמדם בודני
כה"מ אשכנזי המעמדם של אבות, אפילו של כל הנקבות באוכלוסיה
אשר הם ונחמנו אמרו היפה הגדולה אשר אשכנזי ה' את בית ואלו
בש"ס. ונצח פולחם אלו מולד אבותינו, והבטוחות אבני את
קברו אבות הנפוצים מאוכלוסיה ובאדניו לא ק"ס או השלוח,
ול"ס בודני וסוף ול"ס סד"ו שהיות וכלל התכלית תחילתה ובודני
וחוב קצוה של כל א"א אהמיון בודני עושו מצוה, ואמרו חסד של
אמת עם העצמות הנפוצים אבות אלה מנוחת קבר וכלל כלל
שהמקום ציבורים נוחת קבר (אשר ככה בדאמת כה"מ ס"ל ל')
וה' יגדלו פירות עמו ואלו ברחמים ויקום במהרה בודניו
בכחו הנפוצו וחו' אמת הענינו ויננו אמת פרי כו"ט אמת טאלי
וכוחם אונסר בהרה"ק מאדניו באלה"ה

4C

בעזה"ת

RABBI B. RUBIN

1455 - 48th STREET

Brooklyn 19, N. Y.

ULster 3-4894

קערעסטירער רבי

הרב ישכר בעריש רובין

ממלא מקום זקנו הקדוש

ר' ישעי' דע קערעסטירער זי"ע

ה"ה ה'תשנ"ג ט"ז אלול
יב"ה ה' א"ת ה'תשנ"ג
א"ת ה'תשנ"ג

ה'תשנ"ג
ה'תשנ"ג
ה'תשנ"ג

ה'תשנ"ג
ה'תשנ"ג
ה'תשנ"ג

ה'תשנ"ג

מרכז עולמי מרבנים יוצאי אירופה

"גדר אבות", נגד אבות

WORLD-CENTER OF EUROPEAN RABBIS, Section "Geder Avot"

WORLD-CENTER OF EUROPEAN RABBIS

Aza Road 30,
Jerusalem
Israel

272 West 86th Street
New York
GEDER AVOT DIVISION

1230 - 43rd Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11219

492 Bloomfield Ave.,
Montreal, Canada
Tel.: 273-3493

ישראל

נשיא הכבוד:
הרב הראשי הג"ר י. אונטרמאן
הרב הראשי הג"ר י. ניסים

חברי הנשיאות:
הג"ר ז. סורוצקין
הג"ר י. ז. וויז
הג"ר ש. קיפניס
הג"ר ש. אפרתי (מרכז)
הג"ר י. שמעון

אחריק

חברי הנשיאות:
הג"ר א. סילווער
הג"ר מ. פיינשטיין
הג"ר מ. י. רובין
הג"ר מ. שטיינבערג
הג"ר א. ירוחם

קנדה

חברי הנשיאות:
הג"ר פ. הירשפרונג
הג"ר מ. לעוויתס
הג"ר דר. מ. שווארצמאן

ISRAEL

Hon. Presidents:

Chief Rabbi I. UNTERMAN
Chief Rabbi I. NISSIM

Members:

Rabbi Z. SUROZKIN
Rabbi I. S. ZEWIN
Rabbi S. KIPNIS
Rabbi S. AFRATI
Rabbi J. STERN

U.S.A.

Presidium:

Rabbi E. SILVER
Rabbi M. FEINSTEIN
Rabbi M. J. RUBIN
Rabbi M. STEINBERG
Rabbi A. YERUCHIM

CANADA

Presidium:

Rabbi P. HIRSHFELD
Rabbi M. LEWITT
Rabbi Dr. M. SCHWARTZMAN

August 19, 1964

Joint Distribution Committee
3 East 54th Street
New York City, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

I would like to take the liberty to present to you the following appeal.

We are an organization whose purpose it is to see to it that the Jewish cemeteries which were destroyed by the Nazi hordes during their occupation of Eastern Europe, to be rebuilt and replaced.

For this purpose, our organization is promoting as effectively as possible, by word of mouth and in writing through publication in press and radio, by the Landsmanshaft organizations in the United States, the idea of the sacred duty according to the Jewish religion, to maintain and preserve the Jewish cemeteries and their refencing.

This we accomplish by calling meetings and gatherings of the Landsmanshaft at which our rabbis and delegates speak and carry the message of the sacred duties upon us.

In order to give you a brief idea of the nature of our activities in the last two years, may I add--that when the Polish government desired to level the Jewish Gensha cemetery in Warsaw, our organization, during our World Congress in Jerusalem at which the Polish ambassador was present, protested vehemently against such sacrilege and our protest was duly reported by the Polish ambassador to his government.

08122

מרכז עולמי מרבנים יוצאי אירופה

מחלקת „גדר אבות“

WORLD-CENTER OF EUROPEAN RABBIS, Section "Gader Avot"

Aza Road 30,
Jerusalem
Israel

272 West 86th Street
New York
U.S.A.

492 Bloomfield Ave.,
Montreal, Canada
Tel.: 273-3493

ישראל

נשיאי הכבוד:

הרב הראשי הג"ר י. אונטרמאן

הרב הראשי הג"ר י. ניסים

חברי הנשיאות:

הג"ר ז. סורוצקין

הג"ר י. ז. ווין

הג"ר ש. קיפניס

הג"ר ש. אפרתי (מרכז)

הג"ר י. שטערן

אחראי

חברי הנשיאות:

הג"ר א. סילווער

הג"ר מ. פיינשטיין

הג"ר מ. נ. רובין

הג"ר מ. שטיינבערג

הג"ר א. ירוחם

קודם

חברי הנשיאות:

הג"ר פ. הירשפרונג

הג"ר מ. לעוויטעם

הג"ר דר. מ. שווארצמאן

ISRAEL

Hon. Presidents:

Chief Rabbi I. UNTERMAN

Chief Rabbi I. NISSIM

Præsidium:

Rabbi Z. SUROZKIN

Rabbi I. S. ZEWIN

Rabbi S. KIPNIS

Rabbi S. APRATY

Rabbi J. STERN

U.S.A.

Præsidium:

Rabbi E. SILVER

Rabbi M. FEINSTEIN

Rabbi M. J. RUBIN

Rabbi M. STEINBERG

Rabbi A. YERUCHIM

CANADA

Præsidium:

Rabbi P. HIRSHPRUNG

Rabbi M. LEWITTES

Rabbi Dr. M. SCHWARTZMAN

ה"ב

Subsequently to this we organized a series of protests on behalf of the most outstanding Jewish organizations in the United States and Canada, which protests were personally presented in Washington, and I personally intervened with the Polish ambassador who promised me to see to it that the cemetery in question should be left intact, a promised which was confirmed and lived up to by the Polish government.

We also wish to mention, that we have succeeded in persuading a Member of Landsmanshaften to repair the destroyed cemeteries in the respective communities.

Our delegate visited several countries in Europe to establish the situation of cemeteries there, and submitted to us a concrete, workable plan for their restoration.

Our delegation appeared before the ambassador in Washington, of Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, and requested that the respective ambassadors work out a permission from their governments to restore the above mentioned cemeteries in their countries and they promised to fulfill our request.

Our organization is sponsored by the Agudath Harabonim, Histadrut Harabonim, Igud Harabonim, Young Israel, and other major Jewish organizations. We are a non-profit organization and we find ourselves in serious financial difficulty, because we do not solicit nor campaign for funds.

We respectfully ask that you kindly accord us a monetary allotment which will help maintain our organization until we receive indemnifications and reparation from the German government in

Bonn with whom we are personally in contact at the present time concerning these indemnifications.

In the hope that you will favorably consider our appeal we extend to you the blessings for a Happy New Year.

Yours truly,

WORLD-CENTER OF EUROPEAN RABBIS
SECTION "GEDER AVOT"

Rabbi Moses Joseph Rubin

Rabbi Moses Joseph Rubin, Pres.

WORLD CENTER OF EUROPEAN RABBIS

GEDER AVOT DIVISION

1230 E 43rd Street • Brooklyn, N. Y. 11219

MJR:AK

Encl. 1 copy.

מרכז עולמי מרבנים יוצאי אירופה

מחלקת "גדר אבות"

WORLD-CENTER OF EUROPEAN RABBIS, Section "Gedar Avot"

Aza Road 30,
Jerusalem
Israel

Main Office
"Gedar Avot"

1230 43 Str.
Brooklyn 19, N.Y.

August 31, 1964

ה"ה

ישראל
נשיא הכבוד:
חבר הראשי הג"ר י. אונגערמאן
חבר הראשי הג"ר י. ניסים
חברי הנשיאות:
הג"ר ז. סורוצקין
הג"ר י. ג. זיו
הג"ר ש. קופנים
הג"ר ש. אפרתי (מרכז)
הג"ר י. שטערן
אחריק
חברי הנשיאות:
הג"ר א. סילבס
הג"ר מ. פיינשטיין
הג"ר מ. י. רובין
הג"ר מ. שטיינבערג
הג"ר א. ירוחם
קורה
חברי הנשיאות:
הג"ר פ. הירשפרונג
הג"ר מ. לעוויתס
הג"ר דר. מ. שווארצמאן

To Honorable Rabbis & Presidents of Jewish Congregations
and Landsmanschaften in the United States:

I would like to take the liberty of presenting to you the following appeal.

We are an organization whose purpose it is to see to it that the Jewish cemeteries which were destroyed by the Nazi hordes during their occupation of Eastern Europe be rebuilt and maintained in a dignified fashion.

We have entered a claim with the West German government requesting indemnification funds for the restoration of these cemeteries. For this purpose, we are gathering signatures of any Jew who is concerned about this problem.

Enclosed, you will find several declaration forms, and if more are needed please let us know, and we will send it to you. We would appreciate it if you would ask for them.

With blessings for a happy New Year,

Cordially,

Reb. M. J. Rubin
Rabbi M. J. Rubin, President

ISRAEL

Hon. Presidents:

Rabbi I. UNTERMAN
Chief Rabbi I. NISSIM

Praesidium:

Rabbi Z. SURUTZKIN
Rabbi I. S. ZEWIN
Rabbi S. KIPNIS
Rabbi S. AFRATY
Rabbi J. STERN

U.S.A.

Praesidium:

Rabbi E. SILVER
Rabbi M. FEINSTEIN
Rabbi M. J. RUBIN
Rabbi M. STEINBERG
Rabbi A. YERUCHIM

CANADA

Praesidium:

Rabbi P. HIRSHPRUNG
Rabbi M. LEWITTES
Rabbi Dr. M. SCHWARTZMAN

The following names are a part of the Rabbinical signatures who have sponsored our organization:

Rabbi E. Silver	Rabbi Y. Klavan	Chief Rabbis of Israel
Rabbi Dr. Leo Jung	Rabbi Dr. J. H. Lookstein	I. Unterman, I. Nissim
Rabbi D. Lipschitz	Rabbi M. Feinstein	Rabbi E. Kirzner
Rabbi D. Hill	Rabbi S. Horowitz	Rabbi Dr. I. Shorr
Rabbi D. Hollander	Rabbi M. Schwartzman	Rabbi H. Wohlberg
Rabbi T. Adams	Rabbi E. Rackman	Rabbi Dr. E. Schonfeld
Rabbi D. Singer	Rabbi H. Bronstein	Rabbi J. Grossman

From: The Jewish Agency-American Section, Inc.
515 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

To: Rabbi M. J. Rubin

I received your letter of September 30th. Your demands will certainly be taken into consideration and in the negotiations with Germany we will see what can be done about them.

Very sincerely yours,
Dr. Nahum Goldmann

LISTER HILL, ALA., CHAIRMAN

PAT MCNAMARA, MICH.
WAYNE MORSE, OREG.
RALPH YARBOROUGH, TEX.
JOSEPH S. CLARK, PA.
JENNINGS RANDOLPH, W. VA.
HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, JR., N.J.
CLAIBORNE PELL, R.I.
EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASS.
GAYLORD NELSON, WIS.
ROBERT F. KENNEDY, N.Y.

JACOB K. JAVITS, N.Y.
WINSTON L. PROUTY, VT.
PETER H. DOMINICK, COLO.
GEORGE MURPHY, CALIF.
PAUL J. FANNIN, ARIZ.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE

STEWART E. MCCLURE, CHIEF CLERK
JOHN S. FORSYTHE, GENERAL COUNSEL

May 10, 1965

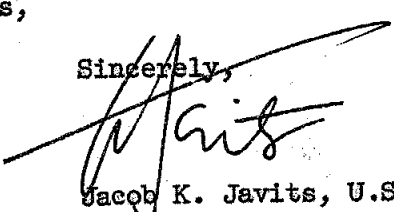
Rabbi M. J. Rubin
President
World Center of European Rabbis
1230 - 43 Street
Brooklyn 19, New York

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

I have your letter of last month and am looking into your inquiry with the Department of State to see what can be done for you. I shall, of course, be in touch with you as the matter develops.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


Jacob K. Javits, U.S.S.

JKJ:rmb



Martin Hirsch

Mitglied des Deutschen Bundestages

53 Bonn , 25. 5. 1966

Fernruf 206 - 2343

Die Wahl dieser Rufnummer vermittelt den
gewünschten Hausanschluß.
Kommt ein Anschluß nicht zustande, bitte
Nr. 2061 (Bundeshaus-Vermittlung) anrufen.

H/Z

An das
World-Center European Rabbis

1230 - 43 rd. Street

Brooklyn, N Y. 11219

USA

Sehr geehrte Herren Rabbiner,

vielen Dank für Ihren Brief vom 5. 5. 1966, zu dem ich Ihnen
folgendes mitteilen darf:

1. Der im September 1965 neu gewählte Deutsche Bundestag hat nicht
wieder einen Wiedergutmachungsausschuß bestellt, dessen Aufgaben
sind vielmehr übergegangen auf den neuen Ausschuß für "Kriegs-
und Verfolgungsschäden". Vorsitzender dieses Ausschusses ist
Herr Abgeordneter Josef Mick von der CDU/CSU-Fraktion, und ich
selbst bin lediglich stellvertretender Vorsitzender und übe als
solcher irgendeine Funktion nur aus, sofern der Vorsitzende
verhindert ist.

Meine Möglichkeiten, etwas für die Nazi-Opfer aller Art zu tun,
sind damit noch geringer geworden, als sie ohnehin schon auch
früher gewesen sind.

2. Ich bedauere es sehr, daß die Bundesregierung sich bisher nicht
bereitgefunden hat, Sie bei der Lösung des Problems der Wieder-
~~errichtung der jüdischen Friedhöfe in Osteuropa zu unterstützen.~~
Da ich jedoch, wie Sie ja wissen, ein Abgeordneter der parlamen-
tarischen Opposition der Bundesrepublik Deutschland bin, kann
ich diese Haltung der Bundesregierung zwar kritisieren, aber
nichts daran ändern.
3. Nach Lage der Dinge empfehle ich Ihnen, eine formelle Petition
an den Herrn Präsidenten des Deutschen Bundestages zu richten,
mit der Bitte um Behandlung dieser Eingabe in dem Fachausschuß,
d.h., dem Ausschuß für Kriegs- und Verfolgungsschäden. Abschrift
einer solchen Eingabe bitte ich Sie mir zuzuleiten, damit ich
gemäß den Bestimmungen der Geschäftsordnung des Deutschen Bundes-
tages mir den Inhalt dieser Eingabe zueigen machen und mich
intensiver darum kümmern kann.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung
Ihr sehr ergebener

LISTER HILL, ALA., CHAIRMAN

PAT MCNAMARA, MICH.
WAYNE MORSE, OREG.
RALPH YARBOROUGH, TEX.
JOSEPH S. CLARK, PA.
JENNINGS RANDOLPH, W. VA.
HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, JR., N.J.
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GAYLORD NELSON, WIS.
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JACOB K. JAVITS, N.Y.
WINSTON L. PROUTY, VT.
PETER H. DOMINICK, COLO.
GEORGE MURPHY, CALIF.
PAUL J. FANNIN, ARIZ.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE

STEWART E. MCCLURE, CHIEF CLERK
JOHN S. FORSYTHE, GENERAL COUNSEL

June 3, 1965

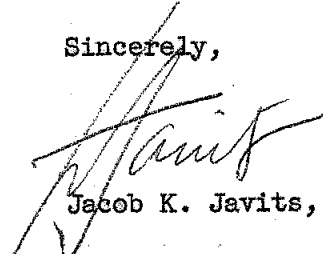
Rabbi M. J. Rubin
President
World Center of European Rabbis
1230 - 43 Street
Brooklyn 19, New York

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

I trust that the appointment that was arranged for you with Chancellor Erhard was satisfactorily realized. I would be very happy to hear from you as to what transpired at your meeting with him.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


Jacob K. Javits, U.S.S.

JKJ:rmb

JÜDISCHE GEMEINDE 7' BERLIN

Körperschaft des öffentlichen Rechts
Rabbinat

Mr. Rabbi M.J. Rubin,

President der Organisation Geder Avot ,
1230 43 Str.
Brooklyn 19, N.Y.

1 BERLIN 15. den 15.7.65
Joachimstaler Straße 13 Dr. Le -h
Fernsprecher: 91 53 83-84

Bankkonten: Berliner Bank, Depka 33, Konto-Nr. 2320
Berliner Diskonto Bank A. G., Depka F
Postscheckkonto: Berlin West 327 16

(12)

Sehr geehrter Herr Präsident !

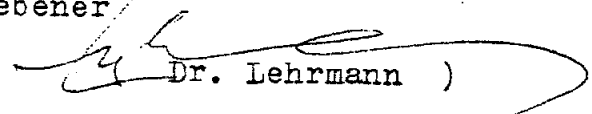
Nach Erhalt Ihres w.Schreibens v. 2.7. und nach dem Eintreffen von Herrn Prof. Unger aus Montreal habe ich in dessen Gegenwart ein langes Gespräch geführt mit dem zuständigen Sachbearbeiter der von Ihnen vertretenen Angelegenheit, Herrn Bundestagsabgeordneten Martin Hirsch. Dieser versicherte uns, dass die Sache keineswegs in Vergessenheit geraten ist, sondern nach Beendigung der Sommerparlamentsferien wieder energisch aufgenommen und weiter betrieben wird. Leider fehlen seitens Ihrer Organisation die nötigen finanziellen Unterlagen über die Höhe der aufzuwendenden Mittel, sodass eine parlamentarische Kommission sich erst im Herbst nach Polen begeben muss zwecks Feststellung konkreter Schadensansprüche. Erst auf Grund solcher Unterlagen kann dann vom Parlament ein entsprechender Beschluss gefasst werden, welcher also offensichtlich positiv sein wird.

Herr Bundestagsabgeordneter Hirsch hat uns ausdrücklich ermächtigt, diese seine Angaben der Presse zu übergeben.

Wie ich aus Ihrer Adresse feststelle, wohnen Sie in nächster Nachbarschaft meines Onkels M.L. Kranzler, Brooklyn 19, 1520 49 Str., Vater von Dr. Georg Kranzler, Baltimore. Falls Sie Gelegenheit haben, ihm telefonisch oder persönlich meine herzlichsten Grüsse zu übermitteln, so danke ich Ihnen hierfür.

Stets gern zu Ihrer weiteren Verfügung, verbleibe ich mit freundlichen Grüssen

Ihr sehr ergebener


Dr. Lehrmann)

Gemeinderabbiner von Berlin

185. 17

LISTER HILL, ALA., CHAIRMAN

PAT MCNAMARA, MICH.
WAYNE MORSE, OREG.
RALPH YARBOROUGH, TEX.
JOSEPH S. CLARK, PA.
JENNINGS RANDOLPH, W. VA.
HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, JR., N.J.
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JACOB K. JAVITS, N.Y.
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PETER H. DOMINICK, COLO.
GEORGE MURPHY, CALIF.
PAUL J. FANNIN, ARIZ.

STEWART E. MCCLURE, CHIEF CLERK
JOHN S. FORSYTHE, GENERAL COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE

December 17, 1965

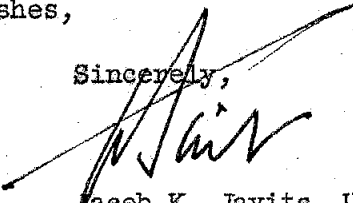
Rabbi Moses Josef Rubin
President
World Center of European Rabbis
1230 43rd Street
Brooklyn, New York 11219

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

Thank you for your letter of December 9. I am asking the Secretary of State to discuss with the Germans during the visit of Chancellor Erhardt next week, the question of rights of Jewish war victims in Europe as you have suggested. I will keep you advised.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


Jacob K. Javits, U.S.S.

JKJ:rmb



THE AMBASSADOR

GERMAN EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 7th, 1966

Rabbi Moses Josef Rubin
President, World Center of European Rabbis
Geder Avot Division
1230 - 43rd Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

With reference to your letter of December 13th, 1965,
to Chancellor Dr. Ludwig Erhard I would like to inform
you that the Office of the Chancellor has now directed
me to send you a copy of the letter which the Federal
Minister of Finance, Dr. Dählgrün, has written to Rabbi
Dr. Eliezer Ebner of the World Center of European Rabbis
on August 25th, 1965.

This letter explains why the Federal Government is
unfortunately not in a position to take any measures
towards restoring Jewish cemeteries on the territory
of Eastern European countries.

Sincerely Yours,



Encl.

(Not printed at Government expense)



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 89th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Desecrated Cemeteries

SPEECH
OF

HON. ABRAHAM J. MULTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 1966

Mr. MULTER. Mr. Speaker, on October 2, 1964, and again on February 24, 1965, I directed the attention of this House to the fine work that the World Center of European Rabbis and its president, Chief Rabbi Moses Rubin, were doing to restore and maintain the Jewish cemeteries in Europe that had been desecrated and ravaged during and since World War II.

I wish to now direct attention to a very fine statement on the subject made by Rabbi M. Schwartzman as follows:

THE VERY ESSENTIAL WORK OF "GEDER AVOT"

(By Rabbi Dr. M. Schwartzman)

A. WE MAY NOT BE INDIFFERENT

One of the most important institutions left by the European holocaust, is undoubtedly the Geder Avot, which is carried on by the energetic, competent, and trustworthy Chief Rabbi Moses J. Rubin. He is the one that raised the anguished cry to all living relatives, community leaders and rabbis, not to remain silent or indifferent to the holy graves of our holy martyrs who were so brutally annihilated by the Nazis in Germany; and not only those graves, but also the cemeteries in almost all of the countries of Europe where there remain only a handful of Jewish families and where city officials have evinced a desire to plow and seed those holy places and historic cemeteries, and the few Jewish families are helpless to prevent such desecration.

The Geder Avot organization has already united the rabbis of almost every part of the world: from Israel, the United States, Canada and England.

The Geder Avot organization has drawn the attention of Senators, members of Parliaments and Congress, Jewish and non-Jewish, and all have unanimously turned to the Bonn Government of West Germany, that it should not only assist in preventing and forcing the arrest of vandals in the various countries,

but its worthy and competent president, Rabbi Moses J. Rubin, is working diligently. It

has convened a world conference in Jerusalem. All of the groups and shades of opinion have joined in this most essential work. Their problem was: How can we permit the anarchic conditions of the thousands of cemeteries in which our loved and dear ones are buried to remain? Political leaders must alarm their governments. We can not remain silent! We must proceed with due diligence—we of the present generation which witnessed the brutal and malicious slaughter of our brethren; our blood must not rest until the honor of those cemeteries are properly restored. Our children will forget it; they will be indifferent.

All nations are loyal and regard their cemeteries with the appropriate measure of dignity and honor. Why should we permit the anarchic conditions to prevail in our cemeteries? How can we watch goats, sheep, swine and dogs graze over the graves of our parents, because the gates have been broken and the monuments overturned, and in many instances vandalized and covered with asphalt for use as a thoroughfare.

The Geder Avot organization sent emissaries to visit the various cemeteries in Europe. The pious Christians help to some degree, but our Jewish brethren must remember the cemeteries of their home town, of their relatives and dear ones.

The Geder Avot organization has files with complete detailed information concerning the major cemeteries in Europe. Why shouldn't relatives know the conditions of the cemeteries in their home towns? The Geder Avot wakes and arouses the conscience of political officials, of governments—Why then do not the Landsmanschafts and other groups turn to Geder Avot for further information?

B. ALL ARE UNANIMOUS

All political and religious organizations, the entire Yiddish and Hebrew press, Hassidic Rabbis, Mithnagdic Rabbis and modern Rabbis from all countries lend a helping hand and strongly encourage Rabbi Rubin to continue the work. In this field of energetic and determined labor, Rabbi Rubin is unique and singular. Holy determination and iron will to accomplish something in this area is one of Rabbi Rubin and his organization's attributes, or as we say in modern Yiddish "staff". They visit lands where there are almost no Jews left, and they see to it that municipal officials should not remove the cemeteries but should adequately secure and protect it by a fence, so that they should remain as a holy monu-

ment for the brutally murdered 6 million Jews.

All of the Landsmanschafts and individuals who want further information can get it from Geder Avot, 1230 43rd Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219 U.S.A.

I would also like to now read a resolution on the same subject adopted at the suggestion of Chief Rabbi Moses Rubin by the World Center of European Rabbis on May 1, 1965, as follows:

THE RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE WORLD CENTER OF EUROPEAN RABBIS IN JERUSALEM, MAY 1, 1965

While we were listening to the Delegates from Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Estonia and Czechoslovakia, who were sent to research the situation of the Jewish cemeteries in these countries, we were alarmed over the terrible picture which they gave of these cemeteries.

While the destruction of the Jewish cemeteries in these countries was done at the time of the occupation of Special Nazi Troops called "Friedhof Battalions" with headquarters in Janow, near Lvov, Poland,

While these destructions were planned and precise and deliberately effected.

While among these cemeteries were tombstones of a thousand years old.

While these cemeteries harbored the remains of Jewish personalities who achieved a position of prominence in the past thousand years of Jewish history,

While the Jewish populations who live today in the free countries of the world cannot find peace of mind until this situation would be changed and the graves of their parents and ancestors which were destroyed repaired.

Since our Delegates have established that every day that passes the situation of these cemeteries are worsened, and since for four (4) years we are asking for aid in repairing these cemeteries.

We appeal to the present leaders of the West German Government to take all measures necessary to accelerate the accord of funds which are needed in order to repair, refence, and restore these 2,000 cemeteries (approximately) in the above mentioned countries.

I do hope that steps will be initiated and consummated in the not too distant future to rectify these intolerable conditions.

ב'ה

עלך פ' בלק בתלכו

אז יבי' הכה' פאנ המעלות מוכני מלך יוסף רובין, שלטי"א

שלום ובוכה

מה שלומי ומה שלום הנבחר לך! האם לך יבול כח
לבוש הימים החמים האלה המקום מיוחד ומכאן?

אין שלום לך לבדני בפנים חבלים באנאליה על
כז' פתורה ואקוני להתקיים יחזא חן הציון מוכני לעצב
עצמי בסבוב ספרו לא למען

אלה עדיין בבית פהבאני ומצבם עולה ומצב. אי אפשר
לפגוע בך מהי היא יכולה לעצוב את בית פהבאני.
בן פלעני על מינוטלים. הוא אחד בישיבה הכבד קוק צ"ל
כאמור, "אם פהנים למחל" הוא עומד למחלך את אחיז'ו
בבול על הישיבה - אינגסיטה.

בהכרח שלום וכל טוב מבית אל בית

ביציבור ופוקדני

אליעזר אהרן



Dr. K. Adenauer

Mitglied des Deutschen Bundestages

-Persönl. Büro-

53 Bonn, den 17. Oktober 1966

Fernruf 2 06.....

Die Wahl dieser Rufnummer vermittelt den
gewünschten Hausanschluß.
Kömmf ein Anschluß nicht zustande, bitte
Nr. 2061 (Bundeshaus-Vermittlung) anrufen.

An den
Herrn Präsidenten des World-Center
of European Rabbis
Rabbi Moses Joseph Rubin

1230-43rd Street

B r o o k l y n, N.Y. 11219

Sehr geehrter Herr Rubin!

Der Eingang Ihres Schreibens vom 18.9.1966 an
Herrn Bundeskanzler a.D. Dr. K. Adenauer wird auf-
tragsgemäß bestätigt. Weitere Mitteilung darf
bis nach Abschluß der angestellten Erhebungen
vorbehalten bleiben.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung

i. A.

Burgdorf
(Burgdorf)

HERBERT TENZER
5TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE:
JUDICIARY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
February 13, 1967

DISTRICT OFFICE:
381 SUNRISE HIGHWAY
LYNBROOK, NEW YORK 11563
PHONE: AREA CODE 516: 887-9111

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
PHONE: AREA CODE 202: 225-3811

PLEASE REPLY TO
DISTRICT OFFICE

Rabbi Moses J. Rubin
World Center of European Rabbis, Inc.
1230--43rd Street
Brooklyn, New York 11219

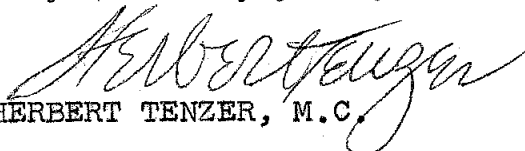
Dear Rabbi Rubin:

Your letter of February 2nd, together with
enclosures, is acknowledged.

I have expressed my interest in the subject
matter of your letter orally to the State Department,
as there was insufficient time to write prior to
the Willy Brandt visit.

With the sponsorship of the Honorable Abraham
Multer and the Honorable Edna Kelly, your interests
are extremely well represented. I will offer to
them my full cooperation in their efforts.

Very sincerely yours,


HERBERT TENZER, M.C.

HT:cs



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON
20520

April 11, 1967

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

On my return from Western Europe, this morning, I find your letter which had arrived the day after my departure.

Respect is so very much deserved for the final resting grounds of members of the Jewish faith in Eastern Europe which had been subjected to such tragic mistreatment during the terrible holocaust of World War II. I am asking a member of my staff to look into the problem with the U. S. Department of State.

The heartless cruelties inflicted upon the few survivors and the disrespect for the dead during those agonizing years cannot be undone, but we of our time can show appropriate honor.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Hubert H. Humphrey
Hubert H. Humphrey

Rabbi Moses J. Rubin, President
World Center of European Rabbis, Inc.
1230 - 43rd Street
Brooklyn, New York 11219

ב"ה וואס איז א טיפן חסיד

Rabbi Solomon Halberstam
OF BOBOV

שלמה הלברשטאם
אבד"ק באבוב

184 BROOKLYN AVENUE
BROOKLYN 13. N. Y.

SLocum 6-3160

אי יענה איה שו"א ודינו ש"ד הרב האון חסידים העסקן חסיד
אמען חסיד חסיד ווארדי אויף חו"ד העלום
כ"ה ווא"ה ווא"ה ווא"ה ווא"ה ווא"ה ווא"ה ווא"ה ווא"ה
אנאן האלע ודינה ודינה ודינה ודינה ודינה ודינה ודינה ודינה
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ווארדי שו"א ווא"ה ווא"ה ווא"ה ווא"ה ווא"ה ווא"ה ווא"ה
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Phone GRamercy 7-9004

ועד הרבנים דניו-יארק רבתי

Rabbinical Board

KNOWN UNDER THE NAME

ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, Inc.

Office: 213 EAST BROADWAY

NEW YORK CITY

ב"ה, יום ... לחדש ... תשכ"ז

לפנינו באה פקודת

הנני מודיע כי פקודת זו היא חלק מן הפקודות

הנני מודיע כי פקודת זו היא חלק מן הפקודות

הנני מודיע כי פקודת זו היא חלק מן הפקודות

BETH DIN

5491 VICTORIA AVE., MONTREAL 26, QUE.

Telephone: 739-1711-2

RABBI I. L. HECHTMAN
Executive Director

הרב י. ל. הכטמן
מנהל

בעזרת השם

15

[illegible]

DER BUNDESMINISTER
DES AUSWÄRTIGEN

Der Leiter des Ministerbüros

REC'D JUN 1 5

Bonn, June 29, 1967

Senator Jacob K. Javits
United States Senate
Committee on Labor and Public Welfare
Washington, D.C.
U. S. A.

Dear Sir,

with reference to your letter, dated April 3, 1967,
and addressed to Foreign Minister Brandt, and to
the Foreign Minister's letter, dated April 27, 1967,
I should like to inform you that the matter of
Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe is still pending
with the competent German authorities. You will
be informed about the matter as soon as the present
studies are completed.

Yours sincerely,


(Arnold)

Der Parlamentarische Staatssekretär
des Bundesministers des Auswärtigen

53 BONN 1, den 10. August 1967
Postfach
Adenauerallee 99 - 103 (Eingang Wörthstraße 5)
Fernruf: Durchwahl 207
Vermittlung 2071

An den
Präsidenten des World-Center
of European Rabbis
Section "Geder Avot"
Herrn Rabbiner M.J. Rubin
1230-43rd Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219

Sehr geehrter Herr Rabbiner!

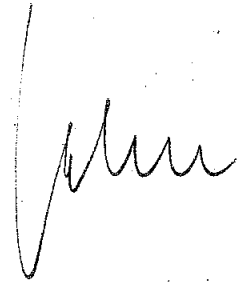
Im Auftrag des Herrn Bundesministers des Auswärtigen bestätige ich mit verbindlichem Dank das Schreiben, das Sie unter dem 25. Januar 1967 in der Frage der Wiederherstellung der unter dem nationalsozialistischen Regime zerstörten jüdischen Friedhöfe in Osteuropa an ihn gerichtet hatten. Ich versichere Ihnen, dass der Herr Minister Ihr Anliegen mit ebenso grosser Anteilnahme wie seinerzeit als Regierender Bürgermeister von Berlin zur Kenntnis genommen hat.

Gleichzeitig darf ich Ihnen im Auftrag des Herrn Bundeskanzlers Dr. Kiesinger für Ihr Schreiben vom 19. Januar 1967 danken, das Sie ihm in der gleichen Angelegenheit sandten und das dem Auswärtigen Amt zur Bearbeitung zugeleitet worden ist.

Wie Sie wissen, stehen der Verwirklichung des von Ihnen so eingehend begründeten Wunsches Ihrer Organisation ausserordentlich grosse Schwierigkeiten entgegen.

Ich kann Ihnen daher heute nur mitteilen, dass die Bundesregierung erneut in eine Prüfung aller mit diesem Problem zusammenhängenden Fragen eingetreten ist. Im Hinblick auf die erwähnten Schwierigkeiten muss davon ausgegangen werden, dass diese Prüfung noch einige Zeit in Anspruch nehmen wird.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'John' or similar, written in a cursive style.

LISTER HILL, ALA., CHAIRMAN

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JOHN S. FORSYTHE, GENERAL COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 16, 1967

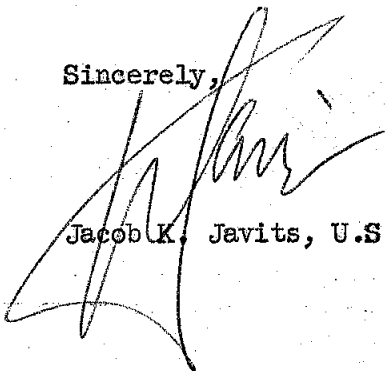
Rabbi M. J. Rubin
World Center of European Rabbis
1230 - 43rd Street
Brooklyn, New York 11219

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

I have your telegram of August 14. As I have in the past, I shall continue to do all I can with respect to the question of Jewish cemeteries in East Germany and, if possible, speak to Chancellor Kiesinger as you request.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


Jacob K. Javits, U.S.S.

JKJ:rmb

LISTER HILL, ALA., CHAIRMAN

WAYNE MORSE, OREG.
RALPH YARBOROUGH, TEX.
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STEWART E. MCCLURE, CHIEF CLERK
JOHN S. FORSYTHE, GENERAL COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 5, 1967

Rabbi M. J. Rubin
World Center of European Rabbis
1230 - 43rd Street
Brooklyn, New York 11219

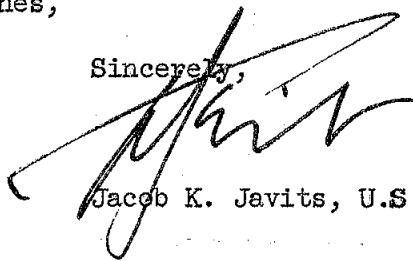
Dear Rabbi Rubin:

Attached is the translation of a letter which I have received from the office of the Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs on the matter of Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe.

When additional information is received I shall of course be in touch with you again.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Jacob K. Javits, U.S.S.

JKJ:rmb
encl.

ECKARD LINDEMAN
RECHTSANWÄLTE

1 BERLIN 12, den
Wp' radorfer Straße 92/93
Ek urfürstendamm
Telefon: 883 5007 / 08 18.12.1967

Schm/Rtr.

Postscheckkonto: Berlin West 1187 90

53

Herrn Präsident
World Center of European Rabbis
M.J. R u b i n

1230-43rd Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219
USA

=====

Sehr geehrter Herr Präsident !

Ich beziehe mich auf den Brief vom 5.12. betreffend jüdische Friedhöfe in Osteuropa.

Ich bin nicht in der Lage und bereit, diese Sache als Anwalt zu übernehmen. Die zuständigen deutschen Stellen werden mit einer solchen Flut von Anträgen dieser und ähnlicher Art überlastet, daß es fast ausgeschlossen ist, hier in Einzelfällen etwas zu erreichen, wenn nicht entweder die israelische Regierung oder der als Gesprächspartner anerkannte Präsident Nachum Goldman in dieser Sache intervenieren. Zudem bin ich selbst beruflich so stark in Anspruch genommen, daß ich gar nicht die Zeit habe, hier die notwendigen Wege zu allen möglichen einflussreichen Stellen vorzunehmen. Ich würde aber empfehlen, daß Sie sich an die Deutsch-Israelische-Gesellschaft, deren Präsident mein Sozus, Herr Staatssekretär Benda, ist, direkt wenden. Der Sitz dieser Gesellschaft ist in Bonn und Ihnen sicher bekannt.

Zu meiner Entlastung sende ich Ihnen als Anlage das Memorandum zurück.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung

Rechtsanwalt

Anlage

THEODORE R. KUPFERMAN
17TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

JAMES J. KAUFMAN
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT

MADELINE MCCARTY
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

DISTRICT OFFICE:
30 WEST 44TH STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036
MURRAY HILL 2-1130

March 18, 1968

The Honorable George Duckwitz
Secretary of State
Department of Foreign Affairs
Woerth Strasse 3
Bonn, Germany

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It was very good being with you at the
German Embassy on the night of February 27.

You will recall that I said I would send
you copies of my previous correspondence on the
subject of the desecrated Jewish cemeteries,
enclosed.

I would hope to hear from you on this as
to what can be done.

With my very best regards,

Sincerely yours,

(signed) THEODORE R. KUPFERMAN

Theodore R. Kupferman, M.C.

TRK:ri

THEODORE R. KUPFERMAN
17TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

JAMES J. KAUFMAN
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT

MADELINE MCCARTY
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

53
42

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

DISTRICT OFFICE:
30 WEST 44TH STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036
MURRAY HILL 2-1130

July 12, 1968

The Honorable George Duckwitz
Secretary of State
Department of Foreign Affairs
Bonn, Germany

Dear Mr. Secretary:

You will recall your letter to me of
May 10, 1968 regarding the matter of the desecrated
Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe. I am enclosing
a copy so that you will be able to refer to the file.

I wonder if there has been any answer as
yet and what might be done to expedite a decision,
which, of course, I hope will be favorable.

I trust that all goes well with you and
am with my very best regards,

Sincerely yours,

TRK:ri
Enc.

Theodore R. Kupferman, M.C.

TRANSLATION

The Secretary
of the Foreign Office

Bonn, July 28, 1968

Dear Mr. Representative:

In reply to your repeated inquiry of July 12 regarding the rehabilitation of Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe, I must inform you that the Government regrets exceedingly that it is unable to accede to the wishes of the World Center of European Rabbis. The decisive reason is that under the present ruling system in the states, it would not only be useless from the outset for the Government to try to undertake measures of this kind, but it would also be politically irresponsible.

We, therefore, have searched for other possibilities and have, for instance, considered the erection in Germany of a memorial statue. However, we have rejected this possibility inasmuch as we are convinced that such a memorial could not satisfy the religiously motivated request of the orthodox East-European Rabbis.

I hope you will understand that for reasons beyond its control, our Government is unable to meet the quite understandable request of the Rabbis.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ G. Duckwitz

WOLFRAM-DIETRICH v. MOERS
RECHTSANWALT

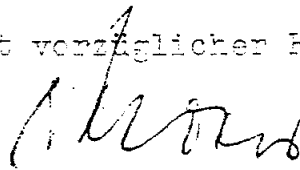
1 BERLIN 15, den 28. März 1969.
Fasanenstraße 72 I/-
Telefon: 8 83 48 85
Bürozeit: 8.30 - 18 Uhr, mittwochs bis 15 Uhr
sonnabends geschlossen
Sprechzeit: nur nach Vereinbarung

Rechtsanwalt W.-D. v. Moers, 1 Berlin 15, Fasanenstraße 72

Sehr geehrter Herr Silber !

In der Angelegenheit wegen der zerstörten jüdischen Friedhöfe in Osteuropa bestätige ich die mit Ihnen geführte telefonische Unterredung. Ich habe daraufhin wie aus der beigefügten Durchschrift ersichtlich ist, an Herrn Rabbiner Rubin einen Kurzbericht geschickt. Ich wiederhole, daß ich nach den getroffenen Vereinbarungen in erster Linie Sie als meinen Korrespondenzpartner betrachte.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung



Rechtsanwalt.

des Bundesministers des Auswärtigen

Postfach
Adressenliste 99 - 103 (Eingang Wörthstraße 5)
Fernruf: Durchwahl 207
Vermittlung 2071

An den

Präsidenten des "World-Center
of European Rabbis",
Section "Geder Avot"
Herrn Rabbiner M. J. Rubin
1230 - 43rd Street

Brooklyn, N. Y. 11219

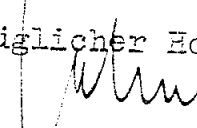
Sehr geehrter Herr Rabbiner,

im Auftrage des Herrn Bundesministers des Auswärtigen
beehre ich mich, Ihnen unter Bezugnahme auf den bis-
herigen Schriftwechsel über die Frage der Wiederher-
stellung der unter dem nationalsozialistischen Regime
zerstörten jüdischen Friedhöfe in Osteuropa folgendes
mitzuteilen:

Die Bundesregierung hat sich mit der genannten Frage
noch einmal sehr eingehend und mit großen Verständnis
für Ihr Anliegen befaßt. An der Meinungsbildung sind
auch die Ihnen bekannten Persönlichkeiten des Deutschen
Bundestages beteiligt worden, die seit je ihre beson-
dere Anteilnahme an dieser Angelegenheit bekundet haben.

Wie Sie wissen, haben auch der Herr Bundesminister des
Auswärtigen und ich selbst einer befriedigenden Lösung
dieser Fragen unser besonderes Augenmerk gewidmet. Alle
mit der Sache Befassten sind jedoch zu der Überzeugung
gelangt, daß die Bundesregierung nicht in der Lage ist,
Ihrem Antrag zu entsprechen. Ich bedaure es sehr, daß
hier der Wunsch, Unrechtsfolgen im Rahmen des Möglichen
zu beseitigen, auf Schranken stößt, die nicht fortge-
räumt werden können.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung


(Gerhard Jahn)

June 23, 1969

His Excellency Willy Brandt
Minister of Foreign Affairs and
Vice Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany
Bonn, Germany

Your Excellency:

For many years the World Center of European Public has sought indemnification for the numerous East European Jewish cemeteries deliberately destroyed by occupying armies during the Second World War. I have been informed by the World Center's president in this country that your government has agreed, in principle, to supply funds for the erection of one or two memorial centers to perpetuate the memory of these sites.

The American Jewish Committee has endorsed the efforts of the World Center in the past and we will continue to offer whatever assistance is within our means. We therefore welcome the gesture made by your government, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in particular. Since many of the applicants are elderly men, who wish to realize the successful completion of this project within a reasonable amount of time, I trust you will agree that this chapter of history should be closed as quickly as possible.

In the meantime, please accept my continued best wishes.

Cordially,

AJG:eb

Arthur J. Goldberg

346 WEST 89TH STREET, NEW YORK 24, N. Y.

מנחם מענדיל יוסף זאקס
בלא"א יעקב מרדכי הי"ד
ראש ישיבה

כ"ה.
א' ח' ב' ג' ד' ה' ו' ז' ח' ט' י' י"א י"ב י"ג י"ד י"ה י"ו י"ז י"ח י"ט כ' כ"א כ"ב כ"ג כ"ד כ"ה כ"ו כ"ז כ"ח כ"ט ל'

פלאה סי' עינן כי הקדמים אחריו וחסדו וכו' חסדו ראה יוסף וכו' וכו'
יהי נא דעם קדמוני אבותינו אלהים וכו' וכו'

על בקשת מלכות אברהם בן יוסף ופייסם במקדש
למנוח המוסר אשר יוסף ואשר בן
למנוח למנוח אשר יוסף ואשר בן
למנוח למנוח אשר יוסף ואשר בן
למנוח למנוח אשר יוסף ואשר בן

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הכבוד אשר עליו הוציא ה' את ישראל

הרב ישראל שפירא

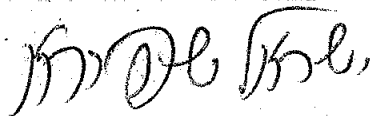
מבלאזוב

1431 - 58TH STREET
BROOKLYN 19, N. Y.

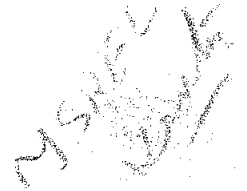
Rabbi Israel Spira

ב"ה

יברך ד' את ראשיומנהלי החברה גדר אבות הרבנים הגאונים ד' עליהם יחי' .
 מאוד נהניתי על השמועה שבעזרת השי"ת עלתה בידכם לעורר את לב אחב"י מכמה מכתבות
 ממדינתנו בהרימכם קולכם לתקן את גדרי הבית: עלמין בכמה עיירות באיראפע הנטושות,
 אחר החורבן הגדול שהי"ת בשם , וגם כמה אוהלים וציונים של צדיקי עולם וגאוני ארץ
 זי"ע , כאשר מראין המכתבים שישנם בידכם , וידוע דברי חכמ"זל מגלגלין זכות ע"י זכאי
 יעזור לכם השי"ת שתתברכו במעשי ידיכם , וזכות הקדושים והטהורים יגן עליכם לישועה
 בכל ענינים לטובה . ומאוד נכון הדבר שברצונכם לשלוח שליח מיוחד לתקן ולציין קברות
 אבותינו הק"מראפשיץ דינאב בלאזוב רישא , יהי ד' עמכם וגם ידי תכון עמכם להצטרף בסייע
 של מצוה רבה זו , ואל אחב"י אשים דברתי שישתדלו בכל כוחם לעמוד לימינכם במפעל הקדוש
 הזה , וזכות המצוה הרבה והנשגבה הזאת יגן עלכל אחב"י להוושע בישועה שלימה , שנוכה
 לראות בנחמת ציון וירושלים בביאת משיחינו ב"ב אמן כחפץ נפש המצפה לישועת ד'



ישראל שפירא מבלאזוב



RICHARD L. OTTINGER
25TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

129 CANNON BUILDING
(202) 225-5535

COMMITTEE ON
INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN
COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND POWER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE:
ROOM 214 MAIN POST OFFICE
YONKERS, NEW YORK 10701
(914) YO 5-0300

CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE:
37 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE
ELMSFORD, NEW YORK 10523
(914) 592-6416

NORTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE:
50 MAIN STREET
BREWSTER, NEW YORK 10509
(914) BR 9-8089

October 16, 1970

1236 43rd Street
Brooklyn, New York 11219

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

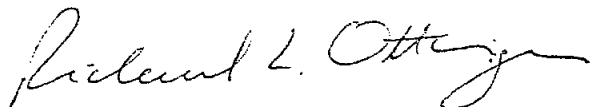
My Administrative Assistant, Paul Schosberg, has reported to me on his meeting with you Wednesday.

I want you to know that I appreciate and share fully your concern over the repeated failure of our government to take meaningful action regarding the desecration of Jewish graves in Europe. I think this is unconscionable and I want you to know that whether or not I am in the United States Senate next year, I will be pleased to work with you and your colleagues to get some action.

I appreciate your continued support and hope I will have a chance to thank you personally at the rally on October 31st.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Ottinger
Member of Congress

RLO:sg

New York, June 16, 1971 (3.45 p.m.)

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Rabbi Moses Joseph Rubin
President
World Center of European Rabbis
Section "Geder Avot"
1230 - 43rd Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219

My dear Rabbi:

This afternoon I received a special message from the German Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Rolf F. Pauls, as a preliminary reply to your messages which you sent to him the other day.

Since I was unable to reach you by telephone (UL 4-3777), I take the liberty of transmitting to you the text of Ambassador Pauls message by special delivery:

"Dear Rabbi Rubin:

I wish to thank you for your communication dated June 10, 1971 as well as for your telegram of June 3, 1971 regarding indemnification for repairing the numerous East European Jewish cemeteries which have been desecrated during World War II.

In this connection I note that the Secretary for Parliamentary Affairs at our Foreign Office, Dr. Jahn, advised you in August 1968.

I am not aware of any new developments that might indicate a change of view.

However, I shall submit the contents of your telegram to the Chancellor and to our Foreign Office in Bonn, so that they look at this problem anew on the basis of the reasons given in your message.

Sincerely yours,
sgd. Pauls "

GERMAN EMBASSY

RK V2 - 84.01

4645 Reservoir Road, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007
September 24, 1971

Rabbi Moses Josef Rubin
President
World Center of European Rabbis
Section "Geder Avot"
1230 - 43rd Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

This is to refer to your communication of June 10, 1971 as well as your telegram of June 3, 1971 regarding the indemnification for repairing the numerous East European Jewish cemeteries which were desecrated during the Second World War.

As you know, Ambassador Dr. Pauls submitted the contents of your telegram to our Foreign Office in Bonn, so that they might look at this problem anew on the basis of the reasons given in your letter.

I have now been instructed to advise you that your message was brought to the attention of the Federal Chancellor, and that the latter appears to share the views of the Foreign Office in that the main difficulties are those of a political nature: Every one of the Eastern Bloc countries has hitherto taken a strong view that the upkeep of cemeteries constituted an internal matter, and thus that there was no room for admitting any outside (foreign) help. Also, as far as the German law on restitution and indemnification is concerned, there are no funds which would cover the upkeep of cemeteries, the main emphasis of this legislation being on affording every possible assistance to the surviving victims of Nazi persecution.

In the circumstances the German Foreign Office regrets that
- for the time being - the Federal Government is not in a
position to take measures towards restoring the Jewish cemeteries
on the territory of East European countries.

Sincerely yours,

D. H. Noebel
Noebel
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

January 17, 1972

In a conference which took place at the Concordia in Brooklyn, N. Y. on January 12, 1972 of the Executive Committee of our Organization, we passed the following resolution:

While we were asking the German Government many times to grant us indemnification for the more than 2,000 Jewish Cemeteries in East Europe which the Nazi Army destroyed they did not accord it to us, in the meantime, a great number of them were totally destroyed. We are resolved to erect memorials to the great Jewish scholars whose graves were totally destroyed. The German Government should accord us the necessary funds for the erection of these memorials. If the West German Government of Bonn does not accord us any indemnification to the Polish Government for the Jewish Cemeteries in Poland, we should have the right to control the work done in our Cemeteries!

We also had a conference of European Rabbis in Jerusalem and resolved to petition the United Nations to pass a resolution that no government should destroy Jewish Cemeteries in the East European countries as is the common practice now. For this purpose we asked the Jewish population to sign this petition.

October 15, 1972

Honorable Jacob K. Javits
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Javits:

I wish to express my deep appreciation for your continued interest in and support of our humanitarian and religious task of restoring and maintaining Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe destroyed by the Nazis and now in danger of confiscation by the Communist countries there.

Regretfully, the West German Government has until now continually postponed resolving this problem under one pretext or another. Therefore, in order to awaken the Jewish and non-Jewish world to help us in our work, we convened a congress in Israel of European rabbis, under the chairmanship of Chief Rabbi Unterman, and there we resolved to turn to the United Nations. We also resolved to obtain one million signatures--which we did--to present to the United Nations. However, this alone is not enough. We also need the support of the United States Government.

In this regard I called you on the telephone and requested of you that you arrange a press conference for us in New York in which we would bring this matter to the attention of the public. I received your letter of October 3rd in response to my request, in which you wrote that a press conference is not practical but that you would bring this matter into the Congressional Record. Unfortunately, this would be insufficient to accomplish our purpose. We have to have great public arousal, which can only be accomplished by having the matter written up in the New York Times. We ourselves are helpless to get the New York Times to give publi-

Honorable Jacob K. Javits
Page Two
October 15, 1972

city to our problem. Therefore, we urge you to come to our assistance and arrange it for us. This article would have a two-fold purpose, as we should also like to give public recognition to your efforts in this regard.

With little effort you can render a great service, which is vital to the success of our work, for which we and all who will know and benefit of it will remain forever grateful.

We are enclosing some material which is very enlightening on this subject.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi M. J. Rubin
President

RMJR:ss

Enclosures

HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, JR., N.J., CHAIRMAN
JENNINGS RANDOLPH, W. VA.
CLAYBORNE PELL, R.I.
EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASS.
GAYLORD NELSON, WIS.
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ADLAI E. STEVENSON III, ILL.
JACOB K. JAVITS, N.Y.
PETER H. DOMINICK, COLO.
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ROBERT T. STAFFORD, VT.

STEWART E. MCCLURE, STAFF DIRECTOR
ROBERT E. NAGLE, GENERAL COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 8, 1972

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

Thank you for your letter of October 15th.

Enclosed is a page from the Congressional Record showing my statement with respect to the unfortunate situation of desecrated Jewish cemeteries in Europe. I have used the means of the Congressional Record, which is circulated throughout the Nation, to give wide circulation to this situation. In addition, my Office has specifically brought my remarks to the attention of the New York Times and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. In each instance, it has been indicated to the press that further detailed information might be obtained from you directly.

Be assured of my continued interest.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


Jacob K. Javits

Rabbi M. J. Rubin
President
World-Center of European Rabbis,
Section "Geder Avot"
1230 43rd Street
Brooklyn, New York 11219

JEWISH CEMETERIES DESECRATED
BY NAZIS

HON. JACOB K. JAVITS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Wednesday, October 18, 1972

Mr. JAVITS. Mr. President, once again we have been brought to our deserved attention the matter of the more

than 2,000 Jewish cemeteries desecrated by the Nazis during World War II. Most were located in Poland, but others were in the U.S.S.R., Hungary, and Czechoslovakia. The gravestones from these sites were consequently desecrated and used as construction material and paving stones for streets and roads.

The "Geder Avot" section of the World Center of European Rabbis, with offices in New York City, has for some time been endeavoring to obtain reparations for the destruction of these cemeteries. Unfortunately, these efforts have not met with success.

Since most of these cemeteries have been completely destroyed and cannot be reconstructed, Geder Avot plans to build memorial houses in Israel for the martyrs, for those who no longer have gravestones, and for the cemeteries which were demolished.

The current situation, I am informed, hardly promises to be much of an improvement from the past. The Government of Poland has already confiscated the cemetery of Lvov and built a park on its site. Among the Polish cities where Jewish cemeteries have been confiscated are Stanislaw, Regzavov, and Belz. Many Jewish graveyards endangered are over a thousand years old, and with their destruction the last historical traces of the Jews of Poland will be effaced. Similarly, Babi-Yar in Kiev, U.S.S.R., a mass grave of Jews and Ukrainians murdered by the Nazis, is in danger of being converted into an amusement park if no action is taken.

Geder Avot is devoted to preventing the further confiscation of Jewish cemeteries and to the erecting of fences around the remaining ones to prevent vandalism and the destruction of graves, both of which have frequently occurred.

Rabbi M. J. Rubin, the distinguished president of Geder Avot, has explained that from the point of view of Talmudic law, the commandment to see that the dead are properly buried is being transgressed. So unequivocal is this obligation that even the High priest, an office mentioned frequently in the Bible, who was under ordinary circumstances forbidden to come in contact with the dead, may busy himself with the burial of the dead.

I am hopeful that this matter of desecrated cemeteries may soon be resolved. Already a petition of a million signatures has been presented to the United Nations. Now, more than a quarter century after the conclusion of World War II and the demise of nazism, this issue, too, should be brought to its "final resting place."

tiring from the Senate. I will miss Senator DAVID H. GAMBRELL. It was my privilege to know him as a public official and as a friend.

Senator GAMBRELL was appointed in February 1971, to fill the unexpired term of Senator Richard B. Russell. It was a challenge to fill the Senate seat of such a legislative giant as Richard Russell. But, DAVID GAMBRELL served Senator Russell's memory well. He exercised his senatorial duties with great responsibility. And, as a freshman Senator, he won the respect of his colleagues for his thoughtful approach to legislation and his willingness to work unceasingly for the people he represented.

Before coming to the Senate, Senator GAMBRELL served as the State Democratic Party chairman of Georgia.

Upon appointment to the Senate, Senator GAMBRELL was assigned to the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, the Aeronautical and Space Sciences Committee, and the Committee on Small Business. He was appointed chairman of the Subcommittee on Science and Technology of the Small Business Committee.

Senator GAMBRELL has represented the people of Georgia with distinction. He served as assistant floor manager of the legislation to guarantee a \$250 million loan to the Lockheed Co., one of Georgia's largest industries. And, he consistently advocated and fought for more and better jobs for the working people of his State. Senator GAMBRELL spoke out early on the need for property tax reform, going before the Senate Finance Committee with a well-thought-out and imaginative tax relief plan for citizens in the lower income brackets and on pensions.

Senator GAMBRELL exercised a strong and active interest in rural development. In August 1971, he joined with the senior Senator from Georgia, HERMAN TALMADGE, and me to conduct a series of rural development hearings in rural Georgia. The Senate was impressed by his understanding of the problems of rural America. Senator GAMBRELL was so correct, as he told the rural development hearings in Alma, Ga., that the problems of urban America could not be solved without attention to the problems of rural America.

But perhaps more important than any single legislative achievement, Senator GAMBRELL had a strong sense of responsibility to the people of Georgia. He conducted "listening tours" of his State, going into the small towns and communities—talking with and listening to the people. He knew of their aspirations and he represented them in his work here in Washington. He knew of their needs, and he tried to help meet them.

DAVID GAMBRELL cares about the people of Georgia. He is a fine Senator. His voice of moderation, his interest in people, and his love for his country will be missed in the next session of Congress. My wife Muriel and I join in wishing DAVID and LUCK many more years of happiness and service to the people of Georgia and the United States.

THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW

HON. WILLIAM S. MOORHEAD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 1972

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Speaker, on September 20, 1972, the Committee on Government Operations issued a report entitled "The Administration of the Freedom of Information Act" (H. Rept. 92-1419). This investigative report was based on some 14 days of hearings held this spring by the Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee which I chair.

I am pleased to note that this report has received wide attention by the bar, the public and the press—all of whom are concerned with improving and strengthening of the act.

On the basis of the testimony taken from Government and private witnesses, I have introduced H.R. 17142 to strengthen the Freedom of Information Act and further protect the peoples' "right to know." (See RECORD, October 16, 1972, page E8792.)

While the present administration has developed secrecy techniques on an unprecedented level, it is gratifying to see that this country's newspapers and others still consider the public's right to know to be paramount.

I include at this point a selection of articles and editorials commenting on this committee report and the subcommittee hearings:

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 22, 1972]

HILL REPORT SCORES PERSISTENT SECRECY

A congressional committee says foot-dragging by secrecy-minded bureaucrats has kept Americans from fully enjoying the freedom of information intended under a five-year-old right-to-know law.

While some agencies have tried to implement the Freedom of Information Act, "the over-all picture which emerges was encrusted with bureaucratic dust and grime which need to be vigorously scrubbed away," says the House Government Operations Committee. The law, which went into effect July 4, 1967, provides that any citizen may see a government document in the files but lists specific categories of material that are exempt.

In a 46,800-word report released yesterday, the committee said the efficient operation of the law "has been hindered by five years of foot-dragging by the federal bureaucracy."

Specific legal language to carry out the objectives of the report will be drafted, including:

Putting time limits in the law, so that an agency would have to grant or deny access to information within 10 working days after getting the request, and limiting an appeal study period to 20 days.

Awarding court costs and attorneys' fees to a complaining party if a court decides the information was improperly withheld.

Providing that trade secrets and commercial or financial data can be withheld only if they actually are confidential.

Prohibiting a government agency from mixing non-exempt and exempt records into a single file with the claim that all the records in it are thereby kept secret.

Spelling out that scientific tests, inspection reports on health and safety, and rec-

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 12, 1972

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

Rabbi Ronald Greenwald has brought to my attention your letter to him of November 29 concerning the Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe.

I share with you your concern for the sanctity of these holy places.

We are of course not responsible for the policies or conduct of governments other than our own, but I shall see what is possible with respect to the matter you have raised.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leonard Garment". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a stylized "G".

Leonard Garment

Rabbi Moses Joseph Rubin
President
World-Center of European Rabbis
1230 43rd Street
Brooklyn, New York 43777



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 93^d CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 119

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1973

No. 88

JEWISH CEMETERIES DESECRATED BY NAZIS

(Mr. PODELL asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the Record and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. PODELL. Mr. Speaker, Willie Brandt, the Chancellor of West Germany, is currently conducting an official visit to the State of Israel. This is truly a momentous occasion. It is the first such visit by a German leader to the Jewish State.

The ramifications of this meeting cannot be missed. The German nation, under the control of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party, earned an infamous place in history by the murder of 6 million Jews. While Willie Brandt was a courageous fighter against Nazism and all the evil that dogma represented, the name of Germany still evokes bitter memories in the hearts of millions of people, Jews and gentiles alike. Chancellor Brandt's visit to Israel marks a new beginning in the relationship between the Jewish State and Germany.

The prospect of expanded, normalized relations between Israel and Germany is certainly a gratifying one. However, this does not mean that the past is an entirely closed book. One outstanding issue remaining to be resolved is that of the Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe that were desecrated by the Nazis.

Over 2,000 Jewish cemeteries in Poland, the Soviet Union, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia, were destroyed. The Nazis desecrated gravestones, and used them as construction material and paving stones for streets and roads.

This despoliment continues even today. The Polish Government has confiscated the large Jewish cemetery in Lvov and turned it into a park. Many of the Jewish graveyards are over 1,000 years old, and are the last remnant of a once-thriving European Jewish community of millions of people. With the destruction of these cemeteries, the last historical traces of Polish Jewry will be eradicated.

There is an organization that is dedicated to finding, restoring and preserving these forgotten cemeteries. The name of the organization is the World Center of European Rabbis. The Geder Avot section of the World Center has for some time been actively engaged in endeavoring to obtain reparations for the destruction of Jewish cemeteries. Rabbi M. J. Rubin, the tireless, devoted leader of Geder Avot, has unfortunately not met with any success in his efforts to date.

Geder Avot's plan is to locate as many Jewish cemeteries as possible, and to restore as many of those as feasible. For those which cannot be restored because the destruction is too great, Geder Avot plans to build memorial houses in Israel for the martyrs, for those who no longer have gravestones, and for those cemeteries which have been demolished. Geder Avot is devoted to preventing the further confiscation of Jewish cemeteries and to the erection of fences around the remaining ones to prevent further vandalism and destruction of graves.

Rabbi Rubin explains that his organization is operating under the guidance of Jewish law. In the Talmud, it is commanded that the dead be properly buried, and this commandment is being transgressed every time a Jewish cemetery in Eastern Europe is desecrated or a grave vandalized. So unequivocal is this commandment that even the high priest, an office frequently mentioned in the Old Testament, who was forbidden under ordinary circumstances to touch the dead, may occupy himself with the burial of the dead.

Rabbi Rubin and Geder Avot are carrying on this work as a religious requirement and as a labor of devotion to the memory of European Jewry. It is a backbreaking task that to date has produced few, if any, positive results. This task cannot be completed unless many more people become aware of the situation and take an interest in it.

A petition with more than one million signatures on this matter was presented to the United Nations. The German Government has been approached in the past, with no response. It is my hope that with the current visit of Chancellor Brandt to Israel, German officialdom will take a renewed interest in this problem and intercede with the East European governments on behalf of Geder Avot.

World War II and nazism both came to an end over a quarter of a century ago. It is about time that this issue should be laid to rest as well.

July 11, 1976

mats is that a new era of cooperation between and convergence of East and West can be ushered in by the Helsinki talks. But available evidence to date is that, far from building bridges between people from contrasting social systems, "detente" may be building walls. In East Germany, for example, the Communist regime has issued new regulations intending to forbid contacts with visitors. Inside Russia, the Cold War appears more bitter than ever for the dissident writers and others who are getting tossed into so-called "mental hospitals" with disturbing regularity, and for Jews who dare to express a desire to go to Israel.

Certainly it does no harm, and over the historical long pull it may do some good, for nations of the East and West to try to reach understandings to guide the peaceful conduct of their relations. But a great deal of harm could be done if the Western governments fail to understand precisely what the Russians have (or do not have) in mind when they endorse detente in glittering generality, and if they fail to demand the most specific kind of concessions from the Russians in exchange for Western recognition of the post-war boundaries of Europe. Legitimization of the Russian army's gains in Eastern Europe has long been a major objective of Soviet foreign policy, and it would be better that the security conference fall flat on its face than for the West to hand the Kremlin what it wants without obtaining in return assurances of a better, freer life for the good people of Eastern Europe.

JEWISH CEMETERIES DESECRATED IN WORLD WAR II

HON. JACOB K. JAVITS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Wednesday, July 11, 1973

Mr. JAVITS. Mr. President, on November 2 of last year, I introduced into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a statement regarding the more than 2,000 Jewish cemeteries desecrated by the Nazis during World War II which are located in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and the U.S.S.R. At that time, I described the efforts of the "Geder Avot" section of the World Center of European Rabbis, with offices in New York City, to obtain reparations for the destruction of these cemeteries and to preserve those still remaining in accord with Talmudic law.

This issue has again come to the fore as the result of an article in the June issue of the Jewish Veteran by Arthur Settel, who at one time served in my office, and who served as chief press officer for the U.S. Department of State during the occupation of Germany following World War II.

I should also like to take this opportunity to correct and inadvertent error in my remarks of last year which has been brought to my attention by the Polish American Congress, and others. As Chairman I. Leonard, executive director of the organization pointed out to me, the cities of Lwow and Stanislaw, as well as some other communities which were before 1939 part of Poland, are no longer Poland's. As he pointed out, for example, Lwow, the third largest city of pre-World War II Poland, was occupied by the Soviet Army in September 1939 when Stalin and Hitler cooperated in dismembering Poland and since that time, like many other historic Polish

cities, has not been under Polish jurisdiction.

The Settel article, which follows as part of my remarks, points up a situation which has been for some time offensive to many persons with deep religious convictions and which has not been fully resolved.

I ask unanimous consent that Mr. Settel's article be printed as part of my remarks.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

STUMBLING BLOCKS TO GERMAN-JEWISH CO-EXISTENCE

(By Arthur Settel)

"Djid," a widely known Yiddish correspondent for Jewish newspapers around the world, sat facing United States High Commissioner John J. McCloy, supreme representative of the U.S. in Occupied Germany, in the latter's spacious office in the I. G. Farben Building, on a hot July day in 1950 in Frankfurt-am-Main.

He had sought and obtained the interview on my recommendation in my role as Chief Press Officer for the U.S. State Department in the infant Federal Republic.

The central thrust of the interview was how the "new" Germany was relating to its remnant of a Jewish population that had once exceeded 850,000 and now totaled perhaps 12,000 souls—all who remained after the Holocaust in a tortured and tormented land.

"Djid" used this *nom de plume* with deliberate intent: to remind readers of the term used by Polish anti-Semites in referring to Jews.

McCloy's position was simple, direct and to the point: German-Jewish co-existence was possible, and in time could be nurtured and perhaps ripen into mutual understanding and eventual friendship between the two great peoples.

He did not condone the atrocities; he did not counsel forgiveness; he did not believe in miracles; one could not expect an instantaneous conversion to democracy. But democratic elements in Germany were receiving encouragement and support, and would in the end triumph over the vestiges of Nazism.

Djid opened his attache case and withdrew a sheaf of photographs.

"Mr. High Commissioner," he said, "I would like to bring to your attention a situation in present-day Germany which is unbelievable.

"In Koblenz, in the French Zone of Occupation, there is a suburb called Leutzel, and in Leutzel there is a street called Metternichstrasse. On a hillock on that street, there stands a shabby little building used as a kindergarten."

"Djid" laid out his photos on Mr. McCloy's desk.

"These pictures I took myself less than a week ago," he said. The steps leading up to the kindergarten were of stone. German youngsters were shown at play on the steps.

"Mr. McCloy," said Djid, "all of these steps were taken from the ancient Jewish cemetery in Leutzel. Every one of them was a tombstone. Here," he continued slowly in broken but clearly comprehensible English, "you can see the Hebrew lettering."

The self-controlled, generally unemotional U.S. High Commissioner looked aghast at the display before him.

A transcript of the interview as published in New York's German-language newspaper "AUFBAU" quoted McCloy as saying: "Das ist alles ungläublich." (This is absolutely incredible.)

"When was this stairway built?" he demanded.

*The English equivalent of "Kike."

"The school was erected before the War but had been bombed out, and a temporary wooden structure put in its place. The stairway, however, remained," Djid replied. McCloy picked up the photos one by one, turned them around and fixed his gaze on the enlargements. The names of the deceased in Hebrew script, with the dates of their birth and death, were easily legible.

He looked at me.

"I should like you to drive out to Koblenz-Leutzel," he said, "and have a look at this school." I said I would do so.

McCloy buzzed for his secretary. He dictated the following letter to M. Francois-Poncet, the High Commissioner in the French Occupation Zone in which Koblenz is situated.

The letter read:

APO 757—FRANKFURT.

July 12, 1950.

MY DEAR AMBASSADOR: I have just heard a story to which I could scarcely give credence were it not for some rather specific evidence that accompanied the story. It is that a kindergarten in Koblenz-Leutzel, on Metternichstrasse, has had its approaches consisting of a series of steps, constructed out of tombstones taken from Jewish cemeteries. The tombstones, I am told, can be clearly discerned and inscriptions on the tombstones are still present. I have been given three photographs which I enclose.

In spite of the photographs and in spite of the story, I am still hesitant to believe they could be allowed to remain. Should not the Germans be compelled to remove these steps if the story is true? Naturally, the continuance of these tombstones as steps leading into the school would be shocking and would lead to some very violent sentiments both in your country and in mine.

I thought, therefore, that it was well to call the matter to your attention for investigation. If you need any further information about the subject, I would endeavor to try to obtain it for you but I believe the above data should be sufficient.

Sincerely,

(signed) JOHN J. MCCLOY.

Honorable A. Francois-Poncet, French High Commissioner for Germany Bad Godesberg.

On my inspection trip, I was informed by the Mother Superior of the kindergarten that she was aware of the origin of the staircase but that "permission" to use the headstones had been "granted by the local Rabbi" whose name she had forgotten.

I tried in vain to establish his identity. I was told that Koblenz had not had a rabbi for years.

A few days later we were advised that the Bürgermeister of the town had ordered stonemasons to "erase" the Hebrew lettering from the steps, in response to orders from the French Occupation Authorities.

Mr. McCloy reiterated his protest to Monsieur Francois-Poncet. And so the stones, now mutilated beyond recognition, were removed and new ones installed in the Jewish Cemetery at Koblenz-Leutzel.

On another occasion, this writer and his wife, while on a weekend tour through Western Germany early in the fifties, found that the famous Tomb of Rashi in Worms was being used as a garbage dump. A strong protest to the City Fathers led to a cleanup by a squad of citizens rounded up by the Bürgermeister. An apology was made to the Juedische Gemeinde.

However, I am happy to report there has been some progress. The number of Jewish cemeteries in Germany has not increased markedly in the past few years, while the desecrations and acts of vandalism have virtually ceased.

The explanation may be that democracy has taken hold, or possibly the fact that so few Jews are left in Germany.

They have gone elsewhere to die.

21, Elul, 5733
September 18, 1973

The Honorable Hubert Humphrey
United States Senator
U. S. Senate Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I hope you will remember our organization and our program. You already had the kindness to intervene for our cause when you was in West Germany. But, to regret, the government of Germany has until now not resolved this moral humanitarian problem. Now over 2,000 Jewish cemeteries in East Europe are in danger of being uprooted and bones of our parents are thrown in rubbish. Now we have decided to present our claims to the U. N. to act immediately, to curb these actions by passing a resolution calling upon all the Governments involved to cease all activities which infringe upon the sanctity of these Cemeteries.

For this purpose we have already gathered 1,000,000 signatures on this application to the United Nations. But this is not enough. It is necessary that great dignitaries of the United States should let their voices be heard in our favor.

It is our request to you as one of the greatest humanitarians of our Country to speak about this problem in the Senate, then, please send us a record of your speech. Enclosed is a copy of the speech which Senator Javits delivered on this problem.

Sincerely,

Rabbi M. J. Rubin, President
Center of European Rabbis
in the United States

RMJR/bm
Enc.

HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, JR., N.J., CHAIRMAN
JENNINGS RANDOLPH, W. VA.
CLAIBORNE PELL, R.I.
EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASS.
GAYLORD NELSON, WIS.
WALTER F. MONDALE, MINN.
THOMAS F. EAGLETON, MO.
ALAN CRANSTON, CALIF.
HAROLD E. HUGHES, IOWA
WILLIAM D. HATHAWAY, MAINE
JACOB K. JAVITS, N.Y.
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J. GLENN BEALL, JR., MD.
ROBERT T. STAFFORD, VT.

MARIO T. NOTO, STAFF DIRECTOR
ROBERT E. NAGLE, GENERAL COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 12, 1974

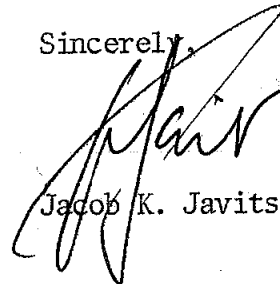
Dear Rabbi Rubin:

Thank you for your letter of December 31st regarding future treaties with the Soviet Union, Poland, and other communist states insofar as the sanctity of Jewish cemeteries is concerned. I am taking this matter up with the Department of State in an effort to be of assistance.

Be assured of my interest.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Jacob K. Javits

Rabbi Moses J. Rubin
President
World-Center of European Rabbis
1230 43rd Street
Brooklyn, New York 11219

JAMES L. BUCKLEY
NEW YORK

COMMITTEES
PUBLIC WORKS
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
SMALL BUSINESS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 7, 1975

Rabbi M. J. Rubin, President
World Center of European Rabbis
1462 53rd Street
Brooklyn, New York 11219

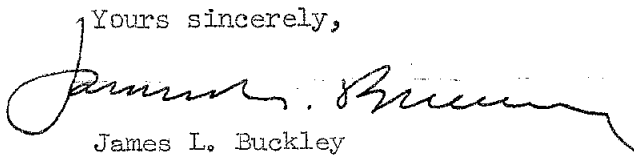
Dear Rabbi Rubin:

This will acknowledge and thank you for your recent correspondence. I am making appropriate inquiries in your behalf.

As soon as I have additional information, you will hear from me with a more detailed response.

Let me assure you of my continued interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



James L. Buckley

TEL. 853-0086

Rabbi Solomon Halberstam
OF BOBOV

1501 - 48TH STREET
BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11219

שלמה הלברשטאם

אבד"ס באבוב

בזכר ידידי הרב הגאון איש אשכולות, עסקן נלהב
אחצלת ישראל, פאר מקדושים כשת מוה"ר משה יוסף רוקח
שליט"א אבד"ק קומפאניניץ יק"א

אשר צורני ב"ר אסוקת שארית ישראל דמדינת ניו-ארק, אשר שם
מצאת מקום קשיות הצעק ונוכחת לדעת אשר ב"ר השתדל שם בהצלת נפשות
אכן גם קיים ירי תבון ועמו כי החודקה מוסאת עליו לעשות ל מאמצים להציל
הנפשות ניו-ארק להוציא ממסגר נפשם, לצאת בקרש מאת אחדיו די קל אתם
ואתם של א"א יחמם סופם הדקשה ואשלחו להקאנפאצאמאן קמחוב שלו, ויהי
ראה פני סוד בן-עליו לתקנת אחיו קני נשגב.

י"נז באב"ה"ח יום ה' מס'ח' ושל"ה א"פ

שלמה הלברשטאם

July 9, 1974.

Resolution Calling Upon President Nixon and Congress to Protest the Intended Desecration and Destruction of Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe.
 By Messrs. Golden ~~and~~

Whereas, It has been reported that the governments of Soviet Russia, Poland, Roumania, Czechoslovakia and Hungary have decided to appropriate and destroy over 1,000 old Jewish cemeteries within their boundaries and replace them with housing, other developments and parks; and

Whereas, The greater majority of the descendants of the deceased that are buried in these cemeteries have been annihilated during the Nazi occupation of Eastern Europe and some of the few remaining survivors have emigrated and are dispersed in other lands so that very few, if any, capable persons remain to supervise or care for the graves; and

Whereas, Jewish law states that a Jewish cemetery referred to as a Bet Olam or "Eternal Home" is consecrated land so that damage to or spoliation of the cemeteries would constitute a sacrilege and result in mental anguish to the descendants of the deceased involved; and

Whereas, It has also been reported that gravestones in many cemeteries in Eastern Europe have, during the past three decades, been destroyed, removed and used for other purposes; and

Whereas, It is the desire of every human being to have a safe and secure final resting place; and

Whereas, The intended action of the governments of Eastern Europe could be a precedent to similarly desecrate and destroy cemeteries of other religions within their boundaries; and

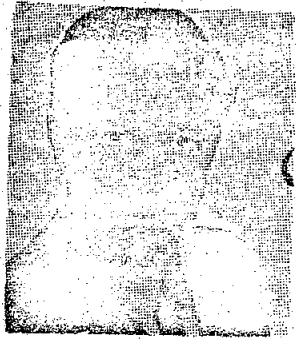
Whereas, Morally, measures should be taken by the governments of the Eastern European countries to right the existing damage, wherever possible, and to protect and preserve the cemeteries so that they will not pass into oblivion; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council calls upon President Nixon and Congress to protest the intended desecration and destruction of Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be mailed to President Richard M. Nixon, United States Senators, Jacob K. Javits and James L. Buckley, and to each member of the New York Congressional delegation.

Adopted.

Dear Rabi Rubin -
 I trust you will be happy to
 learn that I introduced your
 resolution and it passed unanimously!
 Congressman Rodell was good enough to
 have our resolution spread on the
 Congressional record!
 Sincerely
 Howard Golden
 Councilman Bronx Park



REPORT FROM CONGRESS

By CONGRESSMAN
BERTRAM L. PODELL

SOMEONE CARES

When the Nazi Army ravaged Eastern Europe during World War Two, in nearly every community they singled out one site for special desecration: the Jewish cemetery. So while Jews burned in the oven of Bergen-Belsen, the graves of their ancestors suffered all manner of humiliation and degradation at the hands of the invading Nazi Army.

Even when the war ended, however, these Jewish cemeteries were not yet safe; the communist governments that took control of Eastern Europe continued destroying Jewish gravesites — demolishing them to build a New Europe — with few Jews still alive to protest the insensitivity and sacrilege.

The communist bloc governments justify the confiscation and destruction of the remaining cemeteries with the claim that there is no one to care for them and no one who cares about them.

But such claims are entirely without basis or foundation. For since the end of the war, a section of the World Center of European Rabbis called Geder Avot has concerned itself with saving, repairing and memorializing Jewish cemeteries ravaged by the Nazis.

This group, headed by Rabbi M. J. Rubin and including Rabbis E. Silver, M. Feinstein, M. Steinberg and A. Yeruchim, among others, has achieved several notable successes. Several years ago, by getting the help of the American and Canadian governments, they were able to save Jewish cemeteries remaining in

Czechoslovakia.

In 1962, at a conference of over 400 rabbis of Nazi-decimated communities, they influenced a Polish diplomat to intervene in their behalf for the preservation of the Gensaw-Warsaw cemetery, then slated for immediate destruction.

However, repairing Polish Jewish cemeteries that were not totally destroyed and memorializing those that were cannot and should not have to depend on the good graces of any particular Polish official whose positive inclinations, let alone power within the government, fluctuates like the weather.

The Geder Avot group, composed of 900 rabbis and laymen who led the Jewish communities where the cemeteries are located has been campaigning to solve this problem. But their requests to the German government to be designated as agent for the over 2,000 cemeteries desecrated by the Nazi Army have not yet been answered positively.

Now, however, the German government is negotiating a treaty with the Polish government for indemnification for the havoc wreaked in Poland, including the violation of Jewish cemeteries.

If this deal is concluded in its present form, the Polish government — long noted for its anti-Semitic virulence and callousness to any Jewish sensitivities — will control the funds for repairing and memorializing the very same cemeteries they have condemned to destruction on the basis that no one cared about them.

The Polish government, for sure, has shown that it does

not care — it surely should not administer these funds. But Geder Avot does care — the Bonn government should place this important task in their able hands.

I have asked the United States State Department to intervene with the German government in behalf of Geder Avot. I am also encouraging other members of Congress to do likewise.

But more is needed — an initiative with all its elected officials and communicates its formed electorate that pursues concern for the graves of its ancestors with the United Nations as well.

חיים מייזלש
מלפנים אב"ד סארוואש
ברוקלין, נ. י. יצ"ו

[illegible]

13. 11. 2 781 1121
W. Schubert
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THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Institute of Human Relations, 165 East 63 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • 212/761-4000 • Cable: Wisheim, N.Y.

27

October 2, 1975

Rabbi M. Josef Rubin
President, World Center of European Rabbis
1462 53rd Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

I was in Washington last week and once again I inquired about the status of cemeteries in Poland. I was told that some new arrangements have been made during the past few weeks, and I'm now in the process of setting up a meeting with someone at the State Department who will brief me as to the nature of these new developments. I'll certainly keep you informed.

I'm also hoping to call together a few people who have been involved in this meaningful effort, in order to exchange information and determine the best way to proceed.

In any event, I want to reassure you that the AJC continues its serious interest in this issue, and while unfortunately our discussions with representatives of the World Jewish Congress, Claims Conference and other organizations have not proven fruitful, we shall continue to do what we can, so that this issue of great spiritual importance to the Jewish people, will be satisfactorily resolved.

With best wishes.

— דאָויד געלער —

Cordially,

David Geller, US/Director
European & Latin American Affairs

DG:ah

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■ BERTRAM H. GOLD, Executive Vice-President



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Institute of Human Relations 165 East 65 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 212/751-4960 (Cable: Washington, DC)

22

October 3, 1975

Rabbi M. Josef Rubin
President, World Center of European Rabbis
1462 53rd Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

I was in Washington last week and once again I inquired about the status of cemeteries in Poland. I was told that some new arrangements have been made during the past few weeks, and I'm now in the process of setting up a meeting with someone at the State Department who will brief me as to the nature of these new developments. I'll certainly keep you informed.

Concerning the recent developments and your efforts to move the remains from the mass graves to Israel, we shall certainly be giving this matter our most serious attention. I'm hoping to call together a few people who have been involved in this meaningful effort, in order to exchange information and determine the best way to proceed.

In any event, I want to reassure you that the AJC continues its serious interest in this issue, and while unfortunately our discussions with representatives of the World Jewish Congress, Claims Conference and other organizations have not proven fruitful, we shall continue to do what we can, so that this issue of great spiritual importance to the Jewish people, will be satisfactorily resolved.

With best wishes.

Cordially,


David Geller, US Director
European & Latin American Affairs

DG:ah

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RICHARD MAASS, Chairman, Board of Governors ■ MAYNARD I. WISNER, Chairman, National Executive Council ■ THEODORE ELLENOFF, Chairman, Board of Trustees ■
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JEROME L. GREENE, New York; LEONARD KAPLAN, Boston; DAVID LLOYD KREEGER, Washington, D.C.; RICHARD H. LEVIN, Chicago; ARNOLD H. UNGERMAN, Tulsa ■

■ BERTRAM H. GOLD, Executive Vice-President



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 23, 1976

Dear Senator Javits:

I am responding to your communication of July 23, 1976, which enclosed a letter to you from Rabbi M. J. Rubin, President, World-Center of European Rabbis, dated July 7. Rabbi Rubin had expressed to you his concern over reports that the mass graves of Nazi victims in Russia and Poland were being systematically destroyed.

Rabbi Rubin also wrote to the Secretary of State about this matter. This Department's response to Rabbi Rubin noted that the Polish government had expressed a willingness to undertake action to preserve Jewish cemeteries. We also asked Rabbi Rubin to provide us with specific information on the locations of the cemeteries in Poland and the Soviet Union in which graves might be destroyed in order that our Embassies in Warsaw and Moscow may make appropriate inquiries of the governments concerned. We assured Rabbi Rubin of our interest in his cause.

I know you have considerable experience in this area and are well aware of the complexity and delicacy of the problem. Our own evaluation is that the Polish authorities are being generally cooperative with Jewish representatives from abroad in this matter, but we can probably not anticipate that they will meet all the wishes of those interested in the preservation of all the cemeteries. It will take the good will and patient efforts by all concerned to keep this contact with the Poles open and productive over the long term.

We understand that a group of rabbis headed by Rabbi Rubin will be visiting Poland starting on September 6, 1976. The Polish Embassy here indicates that the group, working with the official Polish tourist agency, can set up the itinerary it wants. Information which the rabbis bring back on the state of the cemeteries should give us a far clearer picture of the nature and dimension of the problem than we now have.

JACOB K. JAVITS
NEW YORK

COMMITTEES:
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
FOREIGN RELATIONS
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
JOINT ECONOMIC
SMALL BUSINESS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

ROOM 222
FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
111 WEST HURON STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202

ROOM 420
LEO W. O'BRIEN FEDERAL BUILDING
CLINTON SQUARE
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207

August 31, 1976

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

With reference to your letter of July 7 concerning the status of Jewish cemeteries in Poland, I want you to know that I contacted the Department of State in your behalf. The Department has now responded to my inquiry and I am enclosing a copy of that response for your information. I hope that you will find it of use.

Thank you for taking the time to write concerning this matter. As you may know, for several years I have been working to preserve a number of Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe which have been threatened with neglect or desecration, and I believe we have made some progress in this respect.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


Jacob K. Javits

Rabbi M. J. Rubin
World-Center of European Rabbis
1462 53rd Street
Brooklyn, New York 11219



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

September 20, 1976

Rabbi Moses Joseph Rubin
President
World-Center of European
Rabbis
1462 53rd Street
Brooklyn, New York 11219

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

With reference to our telephone conversation of September 17 I am sending you the informal translation into English of a letter dated September 4 to Mr. William Perry of the Longshoremen's Union from Kazimierz Kakol, Director of the Office of Religious Affairs, Warsaw, Poland (copies of which were to have been sent to you and to Rabbi Lewin):

"In reply to the question which has been raised by you in our office of Religious Affairs, I kindly inform you that our state authorities are in principle agreeable to the preservation of the Jewish cemeteries which are still in being in Poland.

According to this rule, cemeteries all over Poland, including among others those in Warsaw, Lodz, Krakow, Bobowa and Lancut, will be preserved.

Our regulations and appropriate organizational activities support the realization of above rule.

A significant role in preserving the Jewish cemeteries, as is the case with those of other religions, will be material commitments from the families of dead persons and from Jewish society."

It was good to talk to you again.

Sincerely,

Alan R. Thompson
Alan R. Thompson
Desk Officer for
Poland

DEPT 222800188
P.O. BOX 125
"CLEAN VA 22101

UNITED STATES
Western Union Mailgram®

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00016 MLTN VA 10/26/76

▷ RABBI N. JOSEPH RUBIN
PRES. CENTER OF EUROPEAN RABBIS
1462 53RD ST
BROOKLYN, NY 11219

I WISH TO CONVEY TO YOU AND TO MEMBERS OF THE GEDER ABOTH MY
APPRECIATION FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO THE TRADITIONS OF YOUR FAITH.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR COMMITMENT AND AM PERSONALLY SENSITIVE TO IT.
WITH EVERY GOOD WISH,
JIMMY CARTER

2226
22:18 EST

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Western Union Mailgram

Western Union Mailgram
western union
1167 NYAC

RABBI N. JOSEPH BLITZ

WISH TO CONVEY TO YOU

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1462 53rd Street

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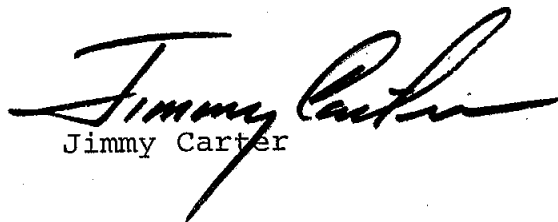
JIMMY CARTER
November 15, 1976

To Rabbi Rubin

I appreciate your congratulations and expression
of confidence in me.

I look forward to benefiting from your support,
advice and prayers as we move forward into our
nation's third century.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Carter

JC/scm



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

January 6, 1977

Rabbi Moses J. Rubin, President
Center of European Rabbis Geder Avot
146 53 Street
Brooklyn, New York 11219

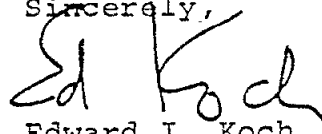
Dear Rabbi Rubin:

Thank you for your expression of congratulations.

While the list of to-do items is lengthy and complex, with the cooperation and spirit of New Yorkers who share my enthusiasm for our City, it is not insurmountable. My hope is that together we can make New York City a better place for all of us to live and work.

I hope as the months progress that you will feel free to offer to me and the members of my administration your comments and suggestions for a better New York.

Sincerely,


Edward I. Koch
M A Y O R

מרכז יישובי מדינות מזרח אירופה

מחלקת "גדר אבוי"

WORLD-CENTER OF EUROPEAN RABBIS, Section "Geder Avot"

AZA Road 30,
Jerusalem
Israel

1462-53rd

1250 44th Street
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11219
Tel. 871-1758

9279 L'Acadia Blvd.
Montreal, Canada

ישראל

RABBI DR. E. EBNER, Vice-Pres.

RABBI M. J. RUBIN, President

מ"מ

נשיא הכבוד:
הרב הראשי ה"ר י. אונגערמאן
הרב הראשי ה"ר י. נויס

January 20, 1977

חברי הנשיאות:
הנ"ר א. פלדמאן
הנ"ר י. ג. וויז
הנ"ר ש. קיפניס
הנ"ר ש. אפרתי (מרכז)
הנ"ר י. שטערן

His Excellency
Mr. Helmut Schmidt
Chancellor of West Germany
Bonn, West Germany

Honored Sir:

May I respectfully bring to your attention and to the attention of your government the following facts:

אחריהם
חברי הנשיאות:
הנ"ר א. פלדמאן
הנ"ר ש. פיינשטיין
הנ"ר ש. ג. רובין
הנ"ר ש. שטיינבערג
הנ"ר א. יונתם
קודם
חברי הנשיאות:
הנ"ר ש. הירשפונג
הנ"ר ש. לעוויתס
הנ"ר ש. שווארצמאן

Our organization, comprising of close to 1000 Rabbis and spiritual leaders formerly heads of communities of East Europe, met at an Emergency Session on January 16, 1977.

At this extraordinary conference, reports were rendered depicting the shocking and critical condition of many hundreds of cemeteries containing the remains of many hundreds of thousands of our brethren, many of them victims of Nazi bestiality before, during, and after World War II.

These cemeteries are now on the verge of total destruction and obliteration due to willful neglect and acts of vandalism.

Our united resolution, at this historic conference, is to plan the mass transfer of these holy remains of our people to the Land of Israel so that in death our saints, scholars, and brethren may find peace and fulfillment.

May we respectfully request your Excellency to use your great influence as a noble humanitarian and leader of genuine democracy to have your Government allocate a large and substantial sum to carry out this vital emergency program - without delay.

May we be favored with your kind and favorable reply as soon as possible.

In behalf of our World Center, our deep thanks and appreciation for your sincere efforts.

Very truly yours,

Rabbi Moshe J. Rubin
President
World Center of European Rabbis

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HON. H. TENZER, Rep.

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מחלקת "גדר אבות"

WORLD-CENTER OF EUROPEAN RABBIS, Section "Geder Avot"

1462 - 53rd STREET • BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11219 • (212) 851-1758

AZA ROAD 30, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

RABBI DR. E. EBNER, Vice-Pres.

RABBI M. J. RUBIN, President

March 21, 1977

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

Dear Mr. President:

It is through our belief in Divine Providence that we believe the Almighty has designated the United States of America as the world's leading power because of its commitment to liberty, freedom, and democracy. We also believe it as Divine Providence that you have been designated to lead this great nation. We therefor extend to you our sincerest wishes for success in achievement of the great goals you have outlined for your leadership.

During your campaign, you were kind enough to send us a telegram with the following message:

I wish to convey to you and to members of the Geder Aboth my appreciation for your dedication to the traditions of your faith. I understand your commitment and am personally sensitive to it. We gave wide distribution to this message, and it was warmly received.

Our organization is devoted to the preservation of Jewish cemeteries in Europe, and to the prevention of their desecration in countries which no longer have active Jewish communities. We sincerely hope we can count on your cooperation in achieving this humanitarian program.

With all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi M. J. Rubin
President

ישראל

נשיא הכבוד:

הרב הראשי הגר"י אונטרמאן

הרב הראשי הגר"י ניסים

חברי הנשיאות:

הגר"י ז. זיו

הגר"י ש. קיפניס

הגר"י ש. אפרתי

אמריקה

חברי הנשיאות:

הגר"י מ. פיינשטיין

הגר"י מ. י. רובין

הגר"י מ. שטיינבערג

קנדה

חברי הנשיאות:

הגר"י פ. הירשפרונג

הרב ל. העכטמאן

הגר"י מ. לעווטעס

ענגלאנד

הרב יהושע ז. מיווליש

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Rabbi M. Steinberg

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GRAND RABBI J. KAPLAN

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HON. A. RIBICOFF, Senator

HON. A. J. MULTER, Rep.

HON. H. TENZER, Rep.

מרכז עולמי מרבנים יוצאי אירופה

"גדר אבות", נגדר אבות

WORLD-CENTER OF EUROPEAN RABBIS, Section "Geder Avot"

1462 - 53rd STREET • BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11219 • (212) 851-1758

AZA ROAD 30, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

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RABBI M. J. RUBIN, President

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הרב הראשי הג"ר י. אונטרמאן
הרב הראשי הג"ר י. ניסים
חברי הנשיאות:
הג"ר י. ז. זיון
הג"ר ש. קיפניס
הג"ר ש. אפרתי

אמריקה
חברי הנשיאות:
הג"ר מ. פיינשטיין
הג"ר מ. י. רובין
הג"ר מ. שטיינבערג

קנדה
חברי הנשיאות:
הג"ר פ. הירשפרונג
הרב ל. העכטמאן
הג"ר מ. לעווטעס

ענגלאנד
הרב יהושע ז. מייזליש

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Rabbi M. Lewittes

ENGLAND

Rabbi J. Z. Meisels

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HON. J. JAVITS, Senator
HON. A. RIBICOFF, Senator
HON. A. J. MULTER, Rep.
HON. H. TENZER, Rep.

March 21, 1977

Honorable Stephen J. Solarz
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Congressman Solarz:

Reports have recently emanated from the Slovakian Jewish community regarding imminent destruction of hundreds of neglected Jewish cemeteries.

We appeal to you to intervene with the Ambassador from Czechoslovakia to halt this desecration of holy places.

Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Sincerely,


Rabbi M. J. Rubin
President



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 22, 1977

Dear Senator Javits:

Thank you for forwarding Rabbi Moses J. Rubin's letter to you of May 13 concerning reports from Jewish communities in Czechoslovakia that Jewish cemeteries in Slovakia are in danger of destruction.

In late 1976, the Department was informed of plans by the Czechoslovak authorities to move the Jewish cemetery in Komarno, Slovakia, to make way for highway construction. Our Embassy in Prague consulted with the Czechoslovak Council for Jewish Religious Communities and found that there were plans to build a highway which would require the relocation of some of the graves. Our Embassy was informed that the Jewish communities in Czechoslovakia were consulted by the authorities on the problem and were seeing to it that the interests of the Slovak Jewish community were protected.

Rabbi Rubin's letter suggests that some construction projects may be going ahead without the consent of the Jewish communities. I will inform Ambassador Byrne in Czechoslovakia of Rabbi Rubin's concern and of your interest in the matter, and I will ask him to make appropriate inquiries to clarify the situation. Meanwhile, you might consider writing to the Czechoslovak Ambassador, Dr. Jaromir Johanes, 3900 Linnean Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20008, to alert him to the issue and to your interest in the preservation of Jewish cemeteries in Czechoslovakia. We have found that expressions of interest from Senators and Congressmen, when worded positively, can be helpful in such matters.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence returned.

The Honorable
Jacob K. Javits,
United States Senate.

ATTORNEY AT LAW
444 MADISON AVE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022
TEL. (212) 758-2258

June 27, 1977

President James Carter
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Carter:

I have been retained by the World Center of European Rabbis in connection with their quest for assistance from the Bonn government to restore and maintain the Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe that were destroyed systematically by the Nazi occupation. This Project is known among the Rabbis as "Geder Avot".

The World Center of European Rabbis has a membership in this country of approximately 900 Rabbis who had congregations in Eastern Europe in the areas affected.

On October 26, 1976, your office sent a telegram encouraging the constituents of this organization in this Project. I have enclosed a copy of that telegram.

Rabbi M. Joseph Rubin, the President of this organization, has requested that I seek the assistance of the United States government in attempting to call attention to the Bonn government of the continuing efforts of the Rabbis to accomplish their goals in "Geder Avot".

A partial listing of the cemeteries that were destroyed is enclosed. These pages were taken from the Congressional Record of October 21, 1966. I regret that there is at least one page missing from this insert. However, this should indicate to you the magnitude of the problem. The Rabbis have been working on this project for over twenty years and have had few, if any, encouraging results.

On behalf of the Rabbis, I hope to enlist the assistance of your office to accomplish their goal.

Very truly yours,

Abraham Wax

Abraham Wax

/ms

Enc.

bcc: Rabbi M. Joseph Rubin

ABRAHAM L WAX

ATTORNEY AT LAW

444 MADISON AVE

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

TEL. (212) 758-2258

June 27, 1977

Honorable Daniel P. Moynihan
Senator
U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Moynihan:

I have been retained by the World Center of European Rabbis in connection with their quest for assistance from the Bonn government to restore and maintain the Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe that were destroyed systematically by the Nazi occupation. This project is known among the Rabbis as "Geder Avot".

I have enclosed copies of the Congressional Record for October 21, 1966 which shows a partial list of the cemeteries which were destroyed.

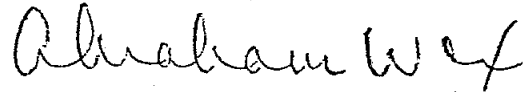
The World Center of European Rabbis has a membership in this country of approximately 900 Rabbis who had congregations in Eastern Europe in the areas affected. Many of them reside in New York State.

They have been seeking this redress for many years, but have been unable to obtain the ear of the German government.

I have this date written to President Carter to enlist his aid in this endeavor. I have enclosed a copy of this letter.

If your office can assist in any way, we certainly would be appreciative.

Very truly yours,



Abraham Wax

/ms

Enc.

bcc: Rabbi M. Joseph Rubin

ATTORNEY AT LAW
444 MADISON AVE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022
TEL. (212) 758-2258

June 27, 1977

Honorable Jacob K. Javits
Senator
U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Javits:

I have been retained by the World Center of European Rabbis in connection with their quest for assistance from the Bonn government to restore and maintain the Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe that were destroyed systematically by the Nazi occupation.

Rabbi M. J. Rubin, the President of this organization, informs me that you and your office have been actively assisting him in this project for some years.

Please be advised that I have this day written letters on behalf of the Center to Honorable Daniel Moynihan and President Carter, in an attempt to create further support for our campaign.

I would appreciate the continued assistance from your office.

Very truly yours,

Abraham Wax

Abraham Wax

/ms

bcc: Rabbi M. Joseph Rubin

JACOB K. JAVITS
NEW YORK

COMMITTEES
HUMAN RESOURCES
FOREIGN RELATIONS
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

REGIONAL OFFICES:
Room 511
110 EAST 45TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017
Room 222
FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
111 WEST HURON STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202
Room 420
LEO W. O'BRIEN FEDERAL BUILDING
CLINTON SQUARE
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207

July 1, 1977

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

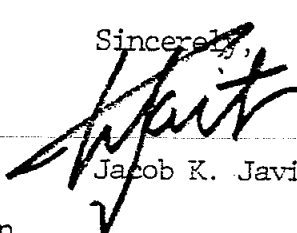
Thank you for your letter of May 13 concerning the fate of Jewish cemeteries in Czechoslovakia. You may be sure that I understand and appreciate the deep concern that prompted you to write.

I have brought your concerns to the attention of the Department of State and in response to my inquiry in your behalf I have received the enclosed communication, which I hope you will find informative. I anticipate receiving further additional information and you may be sure that I will advise you of it as soon as it is available to me.

Thank you for taking the time to write and bring this matter to my attention.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Jacob K. Javits

Rabbi Moses J. Rubin
1462 - 53rd Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219

ATTORNEY AT LAW
444 MADISON AVE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022
TEL. (212) 758-2258

July 19, 1977

Honorable Daniel P. Moynihan
Senator
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Re: Geder Avot
Jewish Cemeteries in Eastern Europe

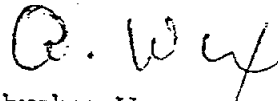
Dear Senator Moynihan:

Thank you for your prompt reply of July 7th to my letter of June 27, 1977. I appreciate your offer of help and I herewith accept.

If I could discuss this matter with one of your assistants who may help guide me as to the best way to communicate with the German government, it may very well start the ball rolling to an effective conclusion.

Thank you again, and I hope to hear from your office soon.

Very truly yours,



Abraham Wax

/ms

bcc: Rabbi M. J. Rubin



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 21, 1977

Mr. Abraham Wax
Attorney At Law
444 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Wax:

Your message to the President has been referred to the Bureau of European Affairs in the Department of State for reply. You will be hearing from them in the near future. Should you have further questions, you may wish to be in touch with them directly. They may be reached at (202) 632-1848 in Room 6221A, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.

We very much appreciate your interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Hodding Carter III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Carter" being more prominent.

Hodding Carter III
Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs and
Department Spokesman

JOHN SPARKMAN, ALA., CHAIRMAN

FRANK CHURCH, IDAHO
CLAIBORNE PELL, R.I.
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CLIFFORD P. CASE, N.J.
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CHARLES H. PERCY, ILL.
ROBERT P. GRIFFIN, MICH.
HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., TENN.

NORVILL JONES, CHIEF OF STAFF
ARTHUR M. KUHL, CHIEF CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 2, 1977

Rabbi Moses J. Rubin
President
World Center of European Rabbis
1462 53d Street
Brooklyn, New York 11219


Dear Rabbi Rubin:

I want to share with you the response I have received from the Department of State to my inquiry regarding the planned destruction of Jewish cemeteries in Czechoslovakia.

In light of Mr. Bennet's suggestion, I have written to the Czechoslovak Ambassador to express my strong concern for the preservation of these cemeteries. I have enclosed a copy of my letter to Ambassador Johanes for your reference. I will be back in touch with you just as soon as I receive a response.

With best regards.

Sincerely,


Hubert H. Humphrey

JOHN SPARKMAN, ALA., CHAIRMAN

Done

FRANK CHURCH, IDAHO
CLAIBORNE PELL, R.I.
GEORGE MC GOVERN, S. DAK.
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, MINN.
DICK CLARK, IOWA
JOHN PH. H. BUDN, JR., ILL.
JOHN GLENN, OHIO
RICHARD (DICK) STONE, FLA.
PAUL S. SARBANES, MD.

CLIFFORD P. CASE, N.J.
JACOB K. JAVITS, N.Y.
JAMES B. PEARSON, KANS.
CHARLES H. PERCY, ILL.
ROBERT P. GRIFFIN, MICH.
HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., TENN.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

NORVILL JONES, CHIEF OF STAFF
ARTHUR M. KUHL, CHIEF CLERK

August 2, 1977

His Excellency

Dr. Jaromir Johanes

Ambassador of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

Office of the Embassy

3900 Linnean Avenue, N. W.

Washington, D. C. 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

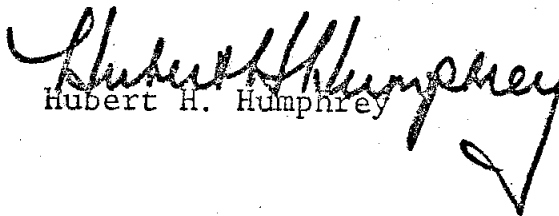
I am writing to express my concern about reports I have received about plans by Czechoslovak authorities to demolish certain cemeteries in which are buried many relatives and ancestors of American Jews. As you may know, I have expressed similar concern in the past for the preservation of these sacred burial areas in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Many Americans have strong ties to their heritage in your country, and they want very much to have this link preserved.

I have been informed that Jewish cemeteries in Holic, Komarno, Novo Mesto, Krompachy, Komjatice and Prievidza have been listed officially for demolition. I would very much appreciate your passing along my expression of concern in this regard to Czechoslovak authorities. It is my sincere hope that the interests of the Slovak Jewish community will be adequately protected in any decision to destroy or relocate any of these cemeteries. I believe such action would represent a gesture of goodwill and friendship toward the Jewish communities in both our countries.

Thank you very much for your kind and humanitarian assistance in this matter.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,


Hubert H. Humphrey

JOHN SPARKMAN, ALA., CHAIRMAN

FRANK CHURCH, IDAHO
CLAIBORNE PELL, R.I.
GEORGE MC GOVERN, S. DAK.
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, MINN.
DICK CLARK, IOWA
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CLIFFORD P. CASE, N.J.
JACOB K. JAVITS, N.Y.
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HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., TENN.

NORVILL JONES, CHIEF OF STAFF
ARTHUR M. KUHL, CHIEF CLERK

100 8/8/77

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 2, 1977

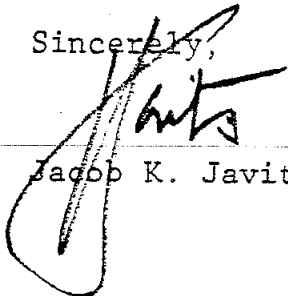
Dear Mr. Wax:

Thank you for your letter of June 27 concerning my work on behalf of Rabbi M.J. Rubin of the World Center of European Rabbis regarding the preservation of Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe that have been threatened with neglect or desecration. On a number of occasions I have written to the Department of State on behalf of Rabbi Rubin and others seeking preservation of Jewish cemeteries by the host Eastern European government. I would be most happy to give such assistance as I can to Rabbi Rubin in the future, on problems respecting specific Jewish cemeteries in terms of approaching the host government exercising control over the cemeteries in question.

Thank you for taking the time to write. I understand and appreciate your concern and interest.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Jacob K. Javits

Mr. Abraham Wax
444 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 31, 1977

Abraham Wax, Esq.
Attorney at Law
444 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Wax:

The White House has referred to me your letter of June 27 concerning the restoration and maintenance of Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe.

The "Geder Avot" project has been brought to the attention of this office on several previous occasions through Congressional inquiries on behalf of Rabbi Rubin and discussions with the American Jewish Committee. Our response to those inquiries has been that possible indemnification for Jewish cemeteries in Poland, damaged by the German Army during the Second World War, is a question which can be resolved only by the Polish and German authorities. According to my information, the Government of Poland has not sought indemnification from the Germans for such damages, and the German-Polish Treaty ratified in 1972 and subsequent agreements contain no indemnification provision. I am not aware of any recent discussions or negotiations between Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany on reparations for Jewish cemeteries. I understand, however, that the Polish Government has designated a certain number of Jewish cemeteries as historic monuments.

I regret that I have no further encouraging information to provide to you and the World Center for European Rabbis. You might, however, wish to write to the Polish and German Embassies if you have not already done so.

Sincerely,

William M. Woessner

William M. Woessner
Director

Office of Central European Affairs

מרכז עולמי מרפנים יוצאי אירופה

בחלקה "גדר אבות"

WORLD-CENTER OF EUROPEAN RABBIS, Section "Geder Avot"

1462 - 53rd STREET • BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11219 • (212) 851-1758

AZA ROAD 30, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

RABBI DR. E. EBNER, Vice-Pres.

RABBI M. J. RUBIN, President

December 14, 1977

ישראל

נשיא הכבוד:

הרב הראשי הגר' י. אונסקרמאן

הרב הראשי הגר' י. ניסים

חברי הנשיאות:

הגר' י. נ. זיון

הגר' ש. קיפניס

הגר' ש. אפרתי

אמריקה

חברי הנשיאות:

הגר' מ. פיינשטיין

הגר' מ. י. רובין

הגר' מ. שטיינבערג

קנדה

חברי הנשיאות:

הגר' פ. הירשפרונג

הרב ל. העקסטאן

הגר' מ. לעוויטס

פונדאד

הרב יהושע נ. מיליש

ISRAEL

Hon. Presidents:

Chief Rabbi I. Unterman

Chief Rabbi I. Nissim

Presidium:

Rabbi I. S. Zewin

Rabbi S. Kipnis

Rabbi S. Afraty

U.S.A.

Presidium:

Rabbi M. Feinstein

Rabbi M. J. Rubin

Rabbi M. Steinberg

CANADA

Presidium:

Rabbi P. Hirshprung

Rabbi L. Hechtman

Rabbi M. Lewittes

ENGLAND

Rabbi J. Z. Meisels

CHIEF RABBI DR. I. BRODIE

GRAND RABBI J. KAPLAN

CHIEF RABBI DR. A. SAFRAN

HON. J. JAVITS, Senator

HON. A. RIBICOFF, Senator

HON. A. J. MULTER, Rep.

HON. H. TENZER, Rep.

The Hon. Henry Kissinger
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Kissinger:

During the time you were Secretary of State, our office was in communication with the Bonn government in connection with our project called "Geder Avot". The Nazis destroyed many of the cemeteries in Eastern Europe and this project seeks to preserve the remaining cemeteries. There are thousands of such cemeteries and most of them are in a state of decay or imminent destruction. In some cases, the host country seeks to demolish the cemetery for construction purposes. This would inadvertently carry out what the Nazis had started. These events would destroy forever the sites as cemeteries and would cause to disappear the last traces of centuries of Jewish life, and death, in each locality.

The Bonn government has been requested by us to appropriate funds for the restoration and preservation of these cemeteries. They have not heeded our request. This letter is an appeal to you for your aid in our project. Perhaps, we can discuss this matter with your office to explore the possibilities of obtaining your assistance.

Very truly yours,

RABBI M. J. RUBIN,
President

The Hon. Henry Kissinger
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Kissinger:

We are writing to you on behalf of the World Center of European Rabbis which has a membership in this country of approximately 900 Rabbis, and world wide in excess of 2,000 Rabbis, all of whom had congregations in eastern Europe.

The World Center has for many years been attempting to communicate to the Bonn Government their extreme distress that the Jewish cemeteries in eastern Europe have been facing destruction, by erosion, vandalism, or by other more sinister behavior. To remedy this situation the World Center has been seeking redress from the German Government for the sake of restoring and maintaining these cemeteries so that the last vestiges of Jewish life and history in those areas will not be eliminated.

We have had many communications with officials and politicians on both sides of the Atlantic, but have not as yet been able to have any meaningful communication with the Bonn Government. Some countries in which these cemeteries are located assure us that they will cooperate, but none are prepared to make any appropriation that will cause us to feel that the cemeteries will be saved.

We look to you for assistance, and hope we can meet with you so that we can join together in an effort and so that the thousands of cemeteries may be saved.

We hope we can hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

In June, 1977, our Attorney, Abraham Wax, wrote your office requesting aid for our Project known as "Geder Avot". Your office very kindly caused this matter to be taken up by Ambassador Young, who in turn caused it to be called to the attention of the Bonn Foreign Office.

In August, 1978, First Secretary, Michael J. Habib, wrote us indicating that the Bonn Foreign Office was not in a position to be of assistance. However, since that time we have seen in the German people and their government certain attitudes which indicate that they might now be more willing to acknowledge responsibility for the Holocaust, and perhaps to make certain adjustments in their attitudes towards our cemeteries which face destruction and erosion.

We feel that a change in the German Foreign Office towards Geder Avot may be possible with some encouragement from your office.

We have therefore approached our people; informed them of your assistance in the past, and asked them if they feel that an additional effort would be beneficial. They have responded with an outpouring of emotion, requesting additional assistance from your office.

We, therefore, request that you place this matter of the Geder Avot again before the German Government. The accompanying signatures are only a small number of those who petition you. We are speaking on behalf of those who have signed, and of those who would sign if it were possible.

NAME

NAME

ATTORNEY AT LAW
444 MADISON AVE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022
TEL. (212) 758 - 2258

January 10, 1978

Ambassador Walter J. Stoessel, Jr.
American Embassy
Mahlemer Avenue
5300 Bonn-Bad Godesberg, Bonn.

Honorable Ambassador:

I am writing to you at the suggestion of Ambassador Andrew Young, who indicated that you could help.

I am the attorney for the World Center of European Rabbis in connection with their quest for assistance from the Bonn Government to restore and maintain the Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe that were destroyed or damaged systematically by the Nazi occupation. This project is known among the rabbis as "Ceder Avot". President Carter, in a telegram on October 26, 1976, indicated his support for our effort and I have enclosed a copy of this telegram.

The World Center for European Rabbis has a membership in the United States and abroad of over 2,000 rabbis who had congregations in Eastern Europe in the areas affected. They have been seeking this redress for many years but have been unable to obtain a favorable response from the German Government. Indeed, in 1971 the German Foreign Office did indicate that at that time the German Government was not in a position to assist us.

We do not feel that such a response is adequate for the effort we have expended during these many years, and we request your assistance as suggested by Ambassador Young, with respect to further steps that we may take.

Very truly yours,

Abraham Wax
Abraham Wax

AW/sk
Enclosures

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bonn

January 26, 1978

Mr. Abraham L. Wax
Attorney at Law
444 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Wax:

Thank you for your letter of January 10, 1978 regarding financial assistance to restore and maintain Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe.

I sympathize with your interest and the Embassy is prepared to contact the Foreign Office to determine if circumstances have changed which would permit them to honor your request.

We shall advise you of the results of our discussion with the Foreign Office.

Warm regards,



Walter J. Stoessel, Jr.
American Ambassador



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 27, 1978

Mr. Abraham Wax
Attorney at Law
444 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Wax:

The White House has referred to me your follow-up letter of December 14 to President Carter in which you again request assistance for the "Geder Avot" project. I understand that you have also written to Ambassador Stoessel in Bonn. Our office has likewise been in contact with the Embassy on this subject.

As I stated in my letter of August 31, we believe that the question of possible indemnification for Jewish cemeteries in Poland, damaged by the German Army during World War II, can be resolved only by the Polish and German authorities. Nonetheless, we have asked that the Embassy again look into the matter. I expect that you will hear from Ambassador Stoessel's office very soon.

Sincerely,

William M. Woessner

William M. Woessner
Director
Office of Central
European Affairs



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 27, 1978

Mr. Abraham Wax
Attorney at Law
444 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Wax:

The White House has referred to me your follow-up letter of December 14 to President Carter in which you again request assistance for the "Geder Avot" project. I understand that you have also written to Ambassador Stoessel in Bonn. Our office has likewise been in contact with the Embassy on this subject.

As I stated in my letter of August 31, we believe that the question of possible indemnification for Jewish cemeteries in Poland, damaged by the German Army during World War II, can be resolved only by the Polish and German authorities. Nonetheless, we have asked that the Embassy again look into the matter. I expect that you will hear from Ambassador Stoessel's office very soon.

Sincerely,

William M. Woessner

William M. Woessner
Director
Office of Central
European Affairs

Rabbi Leibin -

*I received this today, I
will be in touch with you.*

A. Wax

ABRAHAM L. WAX

ATTORNEY AT LAW

444 MADISON AVE

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

TEL. (212) 758-2258

February 23, 1978

Ambassador Walter J. Stoessel, Jr.
American Embassy
Mahlemer Avenue
5300-Bonn-Bad Godesberg, Bonn
Germany

Honorable Ambassador:

Thank you for your letter of January 26, 1978. I have communicated your letter to the World Center of European Rabbis and they are happy with the progress. I do hope that we can have further progress soon.

Incidentally, your name appears to have been mentioned in Haldeman's book, and not unfavorably. If you do not already have a copy, I would be happy to send one to you.

Very truly yours,

Abraham Wax

AW:dv



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Bonn, Germany

March 7, 1978

Mr. Abraham L. Wax
Attorney at Law
444 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Wax:

Ambassador Stoessel is presently on home leave in the United States and so I am responding to your letter of February 23.

I will, of course, bring your letter to the Ambassador's attention when he returns. Your offer of a copy of Mr. Haldeman's book is appreciated. I am, however, certain that the Ambassador will have seen a copy of it during his stay in the United States.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert K. German".

Robert K. German
First Secretary of Embassy

ABRAHAM WAX P. C.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

444 MADISON AVE

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

TEL. (212) 758-2258

April 14, 1978

Ambassador Walter J. Stoessel, Jr.
American Embassy
Mahler Avenue
5300-Bonn-Bad Godesberg, Bonn
Germany

Honorable Ambassador:

In the last communication I received which was March 7th, your office informed me that you were on home leave. I hope your leave was a pleasant one.

The World Center of European Rabbis has requested that I write you again to explore whether they can be of any assistance in your communication with the Bonn Government. There is of course a wealth of information which they experienced over the years in connection with their project. Indeed at one time there was communication between the World Center and the German Embassy in the United States in connection with "geder avot". However no affirmative action resulted from this communication.

We hope to hear that your efforts have been rewarded, and that you have been able to arrange a meeting on the subject.

Very truly yours,

A. Wax

ABRAHAM WAX, P.C.

AW:ks

ABRAHAM WAX P. C.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

444 MADISON AVE

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

TEL. (212) 758-2258

April 14, 1978

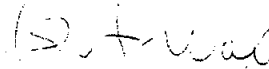
Rabbi M. J. Rubin
World Center of European Rabbis
1462 53rd Street
Brooklyn, New York 11219

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter I just sent to Ambassador Stoessel. I have also enclosed a proposed draft of a letter to Henry Kissinger. Also enclosed is a draft of a letter which I prepared for your signature, and which I sent to you on December 14, 1977.

Please feel free to call me if I can be of further assistance.

Very truly yours,



ABRAHAM WAX

AW:ks
Encls.



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bonn

June 6, 1978

Mr. Abraham L. Wax
Attorney at Law
444 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Wax:

Thank you for your letter of April 14 to Ambassador
Stoessel.

We are in touch with the Foreign Office regarding the
question of financial assistance to restore and maintain
Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe. We expect to receive
a reply shortly and we will inform you of the results at
that time.

I regret that this matter has taken so long.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael J. Habib".

Michael J. Habib
First Secretary

ABRAHAM WAX P. C.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

444 MADISON AVE

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

TEL. (212) 758 - 2258

June 14, 1978

Mr. Michael J. Habib
First Secretary
Embassy of the United
States of America
Bonn, Germany

Dear Mr. Habib:

Thank you very much for your letter of June 6th, 1978.
I shall send a copy to Rabbi Rubin.

In the meantime, I hope to hear from you soon with news
in connection with your communication with the Foreign Office re-
garding assistance in restoring and maintaining the Jewish cemeteries
in Eastern Europe.

Very truly yours,

(s) A. Wax

ABRAHAM WAX

aw:ks

BC: Rabbi M. J. Rubin
World Center of European Rabbis
1462 53rd Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bonn, Germany

August 23, 1978

Mr. Abraham L. Wax
Attorney at Law
444 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Wax:

As I noted in my letter of June 6, we again raised with the Foreign Office the question of indemnification for the destruction of Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe during World War II.

The Foreign Office, after reviewing the matter, has advised us that there is no change in its long-held view that the Federal Republic is not in a position to be of assistance.

I regret being unable to offer a more positive response to your query.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael J. Habib".

Michael J. Habib
First Secretary

ATTORNEY AT LAW
444 MADISON AVE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022
TEL. (212) 758-2253

September 1, 1978

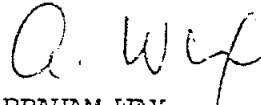
Rabbi M. J. Rubin
World Center of European Rabbis
1462 53rd Street
Brooklyn, New York 11219

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

Please find enclosed a copy of the letter from Mr. Michael J. Habib, First Secretary of the United States Embassy in Bonn, Germany, indicating that the German Foreign Office has again turned down your request for indemnification.

I have also enclosed my reply to Mr. Habib. I know, of course, that this reply will not deter you and your efforts. However, I do not feel that there is much more that I can do to assist your organization.

Very truly yours,



ABRAHAM WAX

AW:ks
Encls.

ABRAHAM L. WAX

ATTORNEY AT LAW

444 MADISON AVE

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

TEL. 212 758-2258

September 1, 1978

Mr. Michael J. Habib
First Secretary
Embassy of the United
States of America
Bonn, Germany

Dear Mr. Habib:

Thank you very kindly for your letter of August 23, 1978,
and also for your efforts on behalf of GEDER AVOT.

Very truly yours,


ABRAHAM WAX

AW:ks

B.C. Rabbi Rubin

ABRAHAM L. WAX

ATTORNEY AT LAW

444 MADISON AVE

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

TEL. (212) 758-2258

September 7, 1978

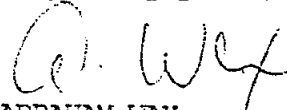
Rabbi M. Joseph Rubin, President
World Center of European Rabbis
1462 53rd Street
Brooklyn, New York 11219

Dear Rabbi Rubin:

In connection with GEDER AVOT, I certainly agree that organizing your effort in each congregation and having each congregation appoint a GEDER AVOT Committee would certainly be a significant method of applying political pressure where it is most necessary.

I urge that you continue in this effort.

Very truly yours,



ABRAHAM WAX

AW:ks

מרכז עולמי מרבנים יוצאי אירופה

מהלכת, "גדר אבוב"

WORLD-CENTER OF EUROPEAN RABBIS, Section "Geder Avot"

1462 - 53rd STREET • BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11219 • (212) 851-1758

1357 - 47th

AZA ROAD 30, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

ישראל

נשיא הכבוד:

הרב הראשי הגר' י. אונגערמאן

הרב הראשי הגר' י. נויס

חברי הנשיאות:

הגר' י. ה. וויז

הגר' ש. קיפניס

הגר' ש. אפרתי

אמריקה

חברי הנשיאות:

הגר' מ. פיינשטיין

הגר' מ. י. רוזין

הגר' מ. שטיינבערג

קנדה

חברי הנשיאות:

הגר' מ. הייזשפרונג

הגר' ל. העכטמאן

הגר' מ. לעוויטס

ענגלאנד

הרב יהושע נ. מייזלס

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Chief Rabbi I. Nissim

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HON. H. TENZER, Rep.

RABBI DR. E. EBNER, Vice-Pres.

RABBI M. J. RUBIN, President

August 22, 1979

Dear Mr. A. War,

In reference to our telephone conversation I am enclosing various copies of letters which will serve as a source of information with regards to Geder Avos. Geder Avos has two requests:

- 1) The United States Senate should revoke Favored Nation Status to those countries which desecrate and destroy Jewish cemeteries and
- 2) Geder Avos should be given the opportunity to rebuild those cemeteries which the German Armies destroyed during WWII.

As you already know President Carter has pledged his support to Geder Avos and his influence would be of great help with regards to our two requests.

Recently two conferences attended by European Rabbis arrived at the unanimous conclusion that the present time presented the best opportunity in seeking President Carters' assistance with regards to our requests. The Rabbis also felt that Divine Providence has sent President Carter as the person who would help Geder Avos with its requests.

Very truly yours,

מרכז עולמי מרבנים יוצאי אירופה

מהלכת, "גדר אבות"

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AZA ROAD 30, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

ישראל

נשיא הכבוד:

הרב הראשי העיר י. אונסקרמאן

הרב הראשי העיר י. גייס

הרב הנשיא:

הרב י. ג. וויין

הרב ש. קיפניס

הרב ש. אפרתי

אפרתי

הרב הנשיא:

הרב מ. פיינשטיין

הרב מ. ג. רובין

הרב מ. שטיינבערג

קנדה

הרב הנשיא:

הרב מ. הירשפרונג

הרב ל. העכטמן

הרב מ. לעוויתס

אנגליה

הרב יחזקאל מ. מילר

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HON. A. J. MULTER, Rep.
HON. H. TENZER, Rep.

RABBI DR. E. EBNER, Vice-Pres.

RABBI M. J. RUBIN, Presiden

Sept. 11, 1979

Dear Mr. Abraham Wax Esq.,

Pursuant to our telephone conversation (9/6/79), I would like to explain how the letter to Dr. Kissinger should be written.

I feel that the following introduction should be made. I, Rabbi Rubin, have translated the works of the renowned German Jewish Rabbi and Leader, Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, into the Rumanian language. I know that Dr. Kissinger's family has great respect for the works of Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch and because of this I am making the following request. It is a well known fact that the German army much to our pain and grief, destroyed over 2,000 Jewish cemeteries during World War II. I have had contact with the West German Government in the hope of securing funds from the West German Government to rebuild these destroyed Jewish cemeteries. However, suddenly and inexplicably the West German Government broke off their negotiations with us. From the time Dr. Kissinger was Secretary of State, we at Geder Avos have always known Dr. Kissinger to be sympathetic to Jewish causes and that his word carries both in the United States and abroad. I am therefore requesting that Dr. Kissinger speak to President Carter who in turn should speak to the West German Government to secure the necessary funds to rebuild the destroyed Jewish cemeteries. We hope that through Dr. Kissinger's intervention an invaluable service will be rendered to the Jewish People and that his deed will never be forgotten in Jewish History.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi M. J. Rubin

P.S. ENCLOSED YOU WILL FIND DOCUMENTS WHICH I BELIEVE CAN BE USED FOR OUR PURPOSE.

מרכז עולמי מרבנים יוצאי אירופה

מחלקת "גדר אבות"

WORLD-CENTER OF EUROPEAN RABBIS, Section "Geder Avot"

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RABBI DR. E. EBNER, Vice-Pres.

RABBI M. J. RUBIN, President

ישראל

נשיא המרכז:

הרב הראשי המרכזי אונטריו

הרב הראשי המרכזי ניו יורק

הרב הראשי המרכזי

הרב הראשי המרכזי

הרב הראשי המרכזי

הרב הראשי המרכזי

הרב הראשי המרכזי

אחראי

הרב הראשי המרכזי

הרב הראשי המרכזי

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HON. H. TENZER, Rep.

כזאת שומה עלינו לסכל עצת הממשלות הרוצים לגרום לחילול עצמותיהם של קדושינו וטהורינו בארצות שמעבר לחומת הברזל הקומוניסטית. לא רק שנחרבו קהלותינו הקדושות אלא שגם סוכני עפר שלנו מוטרדים ממנוחתם ועצמותיהם מושלכים מקברותיהם. מדינת פולין עומדת לקבל הוצה של עדיפות מסחרית מצד ממשלת אמריקה על סכום של 150 מיליאן דולר והיא איננה כלולה בתוך הארצות שעליהן חל האסענדמענט של הסנטור, אם ח"ו תקבל פולין מה שהיא מבקשה בלי תנאי, יראו שליטי פולין "אור ירוק" לעשות כאוות נפשם בבתי העלמין שלנו ולכן מוכרחים אנו לדרוש במפגיע שבמדינה זו לא יקרה אסון של חילול הקודש. אנו בטוחים שקריאתנו לא תמצא אזניים אטומות ח"ו וכל אחד מכם, בלי יוצא מהכלל, תשלחו את מכתביכם בסגנון קורע לבבות לסנטורים ולהברי הקונגרס הידועים לכם, עם העתקים להסתדרותנו. אנו סומכים על רבנינו החשובים ועל עסקני הציבור היקרים שיפעלו במרץ למען מטרה קדושה זו ואנו באים על החתום לכבוד התורה ולכבוד ישראל ייתוך תקווה אמיצה לראות בתשועת ה' יתברך במהרה, אמן ואמן.

חודש אדר שנת תשל"ט לפ"ק

הרב משה יוסף רובין

נאום: הרב משה יוסף רובין

נשיא

הרב שמאל האראוויץ

מזכיר

96

מִן שְׁמֵנוּ בִּיקֶר

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Saving European Cemeteries

Thirty Years' World Center Of European Rabbinic

A group of rabbis, refugees (remnants of the "Holocaust") realize it is not enough for a Jew who now lives in "Free America" to think that he is among the living because of his ornaments, but he has to understand that this was the will of the Almighty so that he may accomplish something for those who are not among the living any longer. His duty is not to forget, and always remember what we lost during the 2nd World War (in the Hitler area) in Europe. For this reason "World Center of European Rabbinic" has a department, under the name of "Gedert Avot" as well as other institutions.

The "World Center of European Rabbinic" basing during the 30 years of its existence alarmed the Jewish world, regarding the over 2000 Jewish cemeteries which remained abandoned in Eastern Europe. In this connection W.C. of E.R. had two world congresses in Jerusalem, which were attended by over 400 rabbis as well as ambassadors of various countries. Among them the Polish ambassador. The rabbis were saving Talmud (Levites) accompanied by other saving.

Rabbi S. Etros of the Agudath Hachochim in Jerusalem explained in Polish what state Poland had decided to destroy the Warsaw Ghetto cemetery. The Polish ambassador they promised to intervene in this matter in Warsaw. And he succeeded in saving the decree. The cemetery (Jerusalem) and so to this

Several years ago the Magistrate of Vienna (Austria) decided to destroy the old cemetery in Sea Street (Zee Gas) set which includes the grave of Haggan Hatzadik Rabbi Shieftel Horowitz of blessed memory. Gedert Avot intervened thru Senators Javies and Humphrey, and sure enough with the help of Washington the decree was annulled. The same thing happened when the Prague Government planned to destroy the old cemetery in Prague with the grave of the Noble Binyamin of blessed memory. There they were already in the midst of the destroying, again G.A. had intervened thru Senator Jackson and Congressmen Muller and Koch, and so the cemetery was saved.

To influence the senators that they should intervene on behalf of the Jewish cemeteries is usually being done by writing letters by thousands of American Jews.

Before President Carter's election, our Senators and Congressmen persuaded him to send us a telegram confirming that he would help save the cemeteries.

Regarding Rabbi Rabin, the Bohover Rebbe said that he mobilized the Jewish and non-Jewish world to save the thousands of Jewish cemeteries in the war torn Europe. He was the organizer of Rabbimot Congress in Jerusalem, New York, and Montreal and made contacts with thousands of synagogues, land synagogues, that they should write letters to their senators and congressmen. Due to these efforts many cemeteries were already saved.

המרכז העולמי של רבנים ישראליים

בשנת 1937, בעת שרבים מן הרבנים העולים לארץ ישראל היו עדיין חסרי אזרחות, הוקם במלבורן, אוסטרליה, המרכז העולמי של רבנים ישראליים. מטרתו הייתה להגן על הקברות היהודיים באירופה המזרחית, ולהתערב למען שימורם. במהלך השנים, התקיימו שני קונגרסים עולמיים בירושלים, בהם השתתפו יותר מ-400 רבנים ונציגים מכל העולם. בין היתר, הצליח המרכז להשיג תמיכה ממשלתית ופרלמנטרית, ובכך לשמור על קיומם של קברות רבים, בהם קברו של הגאון רבי חיים יצחק הכהן קאניבסקי.

המרכז פעל באמצעות נציגיו ברחבי העולם, וזאת באופן שגרר את ממשלת ארצות הברית, שר האוצר ושר החוץ, להצהיר על תמיכתם בשימור הקברות היהודיים. כמו כן, הצליח המרכז להשיג תמיכה מנציגים בכירים בפרלמנט האוסטרלי, ובכך לשמור על קיומם של קברות רבים, בהם קברו של הגאון רבי חיים יצחק הכהן קאניבסקי.

המרכז העולמי של רבנים ישראליים ממשיך לפעול למען שימור הקברות היהודיים באירופה המזרחית, ולהתערב למען שימורם. במהלך השנים, התקיימו שני קונגרסים עולמיים בירושלים, בהם השתתפו יותר מ-400 רבנים ונציגים מכל העולם. בין היתר, הצליח המרכז להשיג תמיכה ממשלתית ופרלמנטרית, ובכך לשמור על קיומם של קברות רבים, בהם קברו של הגאון רבי חיים יצחק הכהן קאניבסקי.

OBSERVATIONS

RABBI CHAIM U. LIPSHITZ

GEDER AVOT

At the close of the Day of world prominent religious leaders at the Rabbinic Shalom Conference in Jerusalem is Rabbi Dr. Y. Rosen, Chief Rabbi of Roumania, Rabbi Ungerman and Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Rubin is delivering an address.

One of the most important in Europe where there remain only a handful of Jewish families. Rabbi Avot, which is an acronym for the word "Gedera" (to observe) and "Avot" (fathers), is undoubtedly the and where city officials have been on by the emergency could find those holy places and the present and continuing Jewish community centers, and the two Chief Rabbis, Rabbi of Roumania and Rabbi of Israel, are helping to ensure Moses J. Rubin. He prevents such observation. He is the one that asked the question: "Why should we remain in Europe for the many different to the holy places of institutions he established for the education of Jewish youth."

During the last war, when the Jewish community in Bucharest was being destroyed, Rabbi Avot was so concerned that he called for the Jewish community in Roumania. Many of the students eventually became great scholars and teachers. A number of them are at this time in charge of Talmudical Academies in Israel.

At a gathering honoring Rabbi Rubin, especially impressive was the address of the well known Rabbi of Bobrov, Rabbi Solomon Halberstam, who is a personal friend of Rabbi Rubin. Rabbi Halberstam told the audience about the activities of Rabbi Rubin during the war and related how he saved several thousands of Jews from the hands of the Gestapo, and stressed the fact that out of the ten rooms which Rabbi Rubin occupied, nine were reserved for sheltering refugees from Hungary, Poland and Lithuania.

All nations are loved and we save their remnants with the appropriate measure of dignity and respect. Why should we deny the Jewish candidate to travel in our cemeteries? How can we watch them suffer and die and not care over the graves of our parents, because the gates have been broken and the remnants overturned and



Jewish Telegraphic Agency DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

650 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXXIII - 49th year

Friday, September 2, 1966

No. 16

GERMAN OFFICIAL WILLING TO BE SUSPENDED PENDING WAR CRIMES PROBE

BONN, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- Dr. Friedrich Karl Vialon, Secretary of State in the West German Ministry of Economic Cooperation, suggested in a television interview here today that he be temporarily suspended, pending the outcome of an investigation as to whether he was involved in the wartime German mass murders of Jews.

Dr. Vialon offered the suggestion after the West German television network broadcast a sharp attack on him Tuesday night, demanding his immediate suspension because of the charges. The network documentary asserted it was hard to believe Dr. Vialon's court testimony that he had never known about the Nazi murder of Jews. The network also noted that the state prosecutor in Bonn has been investigating for two years the charge that Dr. Vialon committed perjury in his defense against the charges.

Dr. Vialon served as registrar of Jewish property in the German administration in occupied Riga from 1942 to 1944. He made his statement about never having heard of the mass murders as a witness in a war crimes trial. Later he was accused by East Germany of having been involved directly in the Nazi "final solution of the Jewish problem." Documents from Latvian archives are among the materials being studied by the Bonn state prosecutor.

The network program displayed documents bearing Dr. Vialon's signature presumably proving that he had given orders that Jewish gravestones be sold for the benefit of the Nazi regime. Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Documentation Center for Nazi Crimes in Vienna, appeared on the program. He said that Franz Maurer, a defendant in a trial of Austrian Nazi war criminals, was in possession of considerable material against Dr. Vialon.

Communists Also Accuse President; Luebke Charges Forgery

The office of President Heinrich Luebke described today as "forgeries" signatures of Dr. Luebke on a Communist-sponsored display of documents allegedly demonstrating that he gave wartime orders for construction of concentration camps. The exhibit is being held in Munich.

The president's office said that he had never participated in any such activity and that the allegations were without foundation. The office added that, on December 30, 1964, the United States Embassy in Bonn commented on similar charges made then, saying that Dr. Luebke's entire life was known to the United States Government, that all details of his life had been checked, and that the United States had the greatest respect for him.

GOLDMANN GLCOMY ABOUT 'PARDON' FOR GERMANY, FUTURE OF SOVIET JEWRY

Jerusalem, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, told the opening session of a Jewish Agency executive meeting here today that he could not imagine that the "day of pardon" for Germany would ever come.

Dr. Goldmann said that he had never advocated the concept of the "other Germany" and that he had been grossly misquoted as so saying at the plenary session of the World Jewish Congress in Brussels last month. He also said that he had been still optimistic some time

Rabbis Seek Restoration of Nazi-destroyed Cemeteries in Communist Lands

May 24, 1961

0 SHARES

NEW YORK (May. 23)

An appeal to the governments of a number of East European countries to restore Jewish cemeteries which were destroyed by the Nazis, has been-presented by a group of rabbis of the Center of European Rabbis in America to the Ambassadors in Washington of the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, it was announced here today by Rabbi M. Y. Rubin, president of the Center, who headed the rabbinical delegation to Washington.

9/4/2016

Plans Set for Rebuilding Jewish Cemeteries Destroyed by Nazis | Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Plans Set for Rebuilding Jewish Cemeteries Destroyed by Nazis

September 1, 1964

0 SHARES

NEW YORK (Aug. 31)

Officials at the headquarters of the International Red Cross, at Geneva, have given assurances that they would undertake the repair of Jewish cemeteries in Germany, destroyed by the Nazis, if the West German Government would meet the costs, it was announced here today by Rabbi M. J. Rubin, president of the American section of the World Center of European Rabbis.

Rabbi Rubin said he has also received a letter from Dr. M. Hirsch, chairman of the Restitution Committee of the Bundestag, lower house of the West German Parliament, agreeing that funds for the repair of the cemeteries desecrated by the Nazis should be provided by the West German Government. Rabbi Rubin pointed out, however, that, when and if the German Government votes such funds, that special budget will cover only the cemeteries despoiled by the Nazis. There are many other neglected Jewish cemeteries in Europe, he said, that badly need repair, and moneys for this work will have to be supplied by synagogues and other Jewish organizations. Appeals for such funds, said Rabbi Rubin, will be made in synagogues during the High Holy Days.

SPONSORED: "Why Be Jewish?" Edgar Bronfman's clarion call to a generation of secular,

Rabbis Seek \$20,000,000 from Bonn for Restoration of Jewish Cemeteries

July 7, 1965

0 SHARES

MONTREAL (Jul. 6)

Martin Hirsch, president of the Indemnification Committee of the Bundestag, the lower house of the West German Parliament, has agreed to present to the Parliament a \$20,000,000 proposal for the restoration of 2,000 Jewish cemeteries ravaged by the Nazis during the Second World War, it was disclosed here by Rabbi Samuel Horowitz, secretary of the World Center of European Rabbis.

Addressing a conference of the organization, Rabbi Horowitz said that the German Government had been asked to turn over the necessary funds to the International Red Cross in Geneva to beautify and protect the neglected cemeteries situated mostly in Poland. Similarly desecrated burial sites in Germany have already been restored. Synagogues throughout the United States have been asked to collect signatures for a petition on the project to be presented to the Bonn Government.

9/4/2016

Bonn Parliament to Consider Indemnification for Jewish Cemeteries | Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Bonn Parliament to Consider Indemnification for Jewish Cemeteries

October 1, 1965

0 SHARES

BONN (Sep. 30)

Martin Hirsch, chairman of the Indemnification Committee of the Bundestag, the lower house of the West German Parliament, said here today that the question of indemnification payments for some 2,000 cemeteries destroyed by the Nazis in Eastern Europe would get early consideration by Parliament.

Mr. Hirsch stressed that the Bonn Government had a "positive attitude" on the matter. He discussed the matter with a two-man delegation representing the World Center of European Rabbis. Taking part in the meeting was Dr. L. Lerman, Chief Rabbi of Berlin.

The West German legislator also promised to present to the Bundestag a request by the rabbis that a commission of the newly elected Parliament visit the countries where the Nazis desecrated cemeteries to appraise the extent of the damage.

Rabbinical Parley Seeks Restoration of Nazi-ravaged Cemeteries

February 11, 1966

0 SHARES

NEW YORK (Feb. 10)

A conference of the World Center of European Rabbis here today decided unanimously to ask the West German Government to fix a definite time for the restoration of Jewish cemeteries in Europe ravaged by the Nazis.

Rabbi Moses Rubin, president of the World Center, reported on a visit of a World Center delegation to Germany last year. At that time, the rabbis presented to West German officials a request for such indemnification for an estimated 2, 000 Jewish cemeteries vandalized by special Nazi "cemetery battalions." Rabbi Rubin noted that favorable action on the request had been promised by M. Hirsch, president of the Indemnification Committee of the West German Parliament, but that the promise remained unfulfilled.

Rabbi Rubin reported that to support the demand, the rabbis had collected 1, 000, 000 signatures of American Jews whose relatives had been buried in those cemeteries and that the State Department had intervened with West German officials in support of the request.

Rabbis Go to Germany to Seek Payments for Destroyed Jewish Cemeteries

November 7, 1967

0 SHARES

NEW YORK (Nov. 6)

Three rabbis armed with a petition bearing one million signatures, left for West Germany yesterday to seek indemnification from the Bonn Government to restore 2,000 Jewish cemeteries all over Europe desecrated and destroyed by Nazis during World War II. The delegation representing the World Center of European Rabbis, with headquarters in Brooklyn, consisted of Rabbi Moses J. Rubin, president of the Center and head of the Union of Rabbis in Rumania during the second world war; Rabbi Pinchas M. Teitz, a member of the presidium of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada; and Rabbi David Hollander, president of the Board of Orthodox Rabbis of Metropolitan New York.

Rabbi Rubin, who will act as spokesman for the delegation, noted that the chairman of the reparations committee of the West German Bundestag (lower house of parliament), had approved in principal the Center's claims for indemnification, and said the Bundestag would be asked to appropriate the necessary funds. Nevertheless, Rabbi Rubin said. "our many appeals to the West German Federal Republic continue to go unheeded, despite declarations of interest and concern on the part of responsible individuals."

Some 2000 Jewish Cemeteries in East Europe Slated for Destruction

March 1, 1974

0 SHARES

NEW YORK (Feb. 28)

More than 2000 Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe, most of them in the Soviet Union, are slated deliberately for confiscation and destruction, Rabbi Moses Rubin, president of the World Conference of European Rabbis, warned here today. He also told a press conference, called by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry that in the Soviet Union, the planned attacks on Jewish cemeteries were part of an overall Soviet plan to shatter the Jewish spirit and ultimately to destroy every vestige of Jewish identity in the USSR.

Rabbi Rubin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the situation was most alarming in Russia, Hungary and Poland. He said a bill has been introduced to the Polish Parliament to nationalize the land in which the cemeteries are located. He called the activities "barbarism committed against the dead" and said it was a "world obligation" to prevent such acts.

Mayor Abraham Beame proclaimed today as "The Day for Jewish Cemeteries in Eastern Europe in New York City." He called on New Yorkers to reflect on the significance of the day by endorsing a petition of the World Conference to the United Nations, asking for action to prevent the desecrations. He said the petition requires one million signatures.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Soviet Jewry organization, said that in recent weeks, "we have become aware, through conversations with Jewish activists in the Soviet Union, of a concerted campaign by the Soviet government to desecrate and to seize Jewish burial grounds. Rabbi Rubin displayed photos of desecrated Jewish cemeteries in the USSR and others left untended to a point where "they will soon fade into oblivion."

Hoenlein reported that in Lvov a Jewish cemetery was confiscated and turned into a market place. In Odessa, the government is trying to take over land where a cemetery is located which is the resting place of many Jewish leaders. He said the Conference was asking Soviet officials to halt the campaign and to allow the families of those buried in the threatened cemeteries enough time for disinterment and removal of the remains to Israel. (By Yitzhak Rabi)