

July 24, 1968

Msgr. Andrew P. Landi  
Catholic Relief Services  
U. S. Catholic Conference  
350 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Msgr. Landi:

It was very good meeting you in person last Friday morning. We are especially grateful for the privilege of having discussed the Biafra problem with such dedicated and competent people as Father Anthony Byrne, Father Raymond Kennedy, Jim Norris and yourself.

We respond most affirmatively to the proposal for creating a joint Catholic, Protestant and Jewish effort to help meet the needs of the helpless people in Nigeria and Biafra. As a result of our meeting on Friday morning, we have undertaken a number of initiatives which have already proven to be productive, if even in a modest way. Our president, Morris B. Abram, has received a grant of \$10,000 from a foundation, with which he is associated, to be contributed to the costs of an air flight shipment of food, medicines and drugs to Sao Tome.

In addition, as a result of a statement that I made at Marquette University last week which appeared in the press on the West Coast a doctor in California telephoned me long distance to volunteer a shipment of two to three tons of medicines and drugs, including antibiotics and some medical instruments which can be used in clinics and hospitals.

This Thursday morning Mr. Abram will be meeting with the leaders of all the major national Jewish religious, social welfare, philanthropic, communal and related bodies to ascertain how we can best help mobilize

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the Jewish community behind this effort. As soon as we have crystallized our policy and program, I will be in touch with you.

In the meantime, I would very much appreciate your giving some thought to what our procedure ought to be for using as early as possible this money for an air shipment and the medicines and drugs. I am confident that there will be other donations of money as well as supplies, and it is important that we create some cooperative instrument at the earliest possible date. It should be made clear that we recognize that both your own independent valuable programs and those of the Church World Service will in no way be effected by this effort; on the contrary, our only hope is that we can help strengthen the great work that you are already engaged in and to which you have given such inspired leadership.

I leave on vacation August 1st and would welcome an opportunity to speak to you before that time.

Would you be kind enough to communicate the substance of this letter to your colleagues who were with us last Friday morning.

With warmest good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
Director  
Interreligious Affairs Department

MHT:MSB

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