

M E M O R A N D U M

7/31

July 29, 1968

TO: Participants in the American Jewish Emergency Effort
for Biafran Relief

FROM: Morris B. Abram

* REMINDER: The next meeting of our group is scheduled for *
* Wednesday afternoon, July 31, 1968, at 4:00 p.m., at the *
* offices of the American Jewish Committee, 8th floor. *

As we agreed at our luncheon meeting last Thursday, a Steering Committee consisting of the following individuals met Friday afternoon, July 26, at 4:00 p.m.: Rabbi Seymour Siegal, Jewish Theological Seminary of America; Mrs. Zmira Goodman, National Council of Jewish Women; Rabbi Mark Saperstein*, Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Mr. Alex Miller, Anti-Defamation League; Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, Rabbi James Rudin, Dr. Simon Segal and several other staff members of the American Jewish Committee.

The group reviewed a draft of an ad to be inserted in the New York Times and possibly other papers, subject to the availability of funds and subject also to the final approval of the full group of participants at their next meeting on Wednesday, July 31.

It was suggested that the ad might be signed by the presidents of the various participating organizations, plus individuals who might not have an organization affiliation. It was also suggested that on the day that the ad is placed in the Times a press release be prepared reporting the formation of the American Jewish Emergency Effort for Biafran Relief.

It was agreed that all participating organizations should be contacted, reminded of the 4:00 p.m. meeting on July 31, and requested to come prepared at that time, if at all possible, to

* filling in for Mr. Al Vorspan

indicate the nature and extent of cooperation their respective organizations are ready to offer. It would be important, too, to report on Wednesday on the possibility of the president or other top officer of each of the various organizations being willing to lend his or her name to the proposed ad. Hopefully, too, individual participants will come prepared to report on any and all efforts his or her organization is prepared to carry forward.

A sub committee consisting of Rabbi Seymour Siegal, Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum and Rabbi Mark Saperstein was appointed to maintain contact with Protestant and Catholic relief agencies and with UNICEF, and to determine from these agencies the nature of the assistance required, i.e., in addition to money the kinds of food, medical supplies, etc., that are most needed. Also to be determined are ways and means of effecting maximum cooperation between the agencies.

It was agreed that at the next meeting of the full group on Wednesday, July 31, the next steps with respect to the placement of the ad, i.e., timing, financing, etc., would be finally agreed upon; the press release concerning the activities of the group should be approved; a committee might be authorized to call upon Secretary General U Thant to urge that everything possible be done through the offices of the United Nations; and consideration should be given to additional ways and means of stimulating pressure on our own government for further aid to Biafra.

MBA:SAS