The American Jewish Committee

Memorandum

To: Andrew Baker, Arthur Berger, Jason Isaacson

From: David Harris

Date: November 28, 1997

Re: UN/WEOG Ad and Europe

Bob Rifkind and I met with Dore Gold and David Peleg, Israel's principal ambassadors to the United Nations, on Wednesday. In the course of our conversation, which was mostly on non-UN related issues, they reported that there is some encouraging momentum in our WEOG efforts and urged us to keep up our work.

Specifically, U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson met with the WEOG group last week and reportedly pressed the member countries to accept Israel. [See AJC press release on the subject dated November 26th.] Moreover, the Israelis reported that, in addition to the U.S., Australia, Canada, Germany, Norway and Spain (yes, Spain) had apparently indicated support for Israel's inclusion.

Out of our discussion came the idea of reprinting the AJC ad in several key European newspapers, ideally with a local partner, i.e. the Jewish community. While I can guess at some of the possible obstacles, I nonetheless believe this is a fascinating idea, one well worth pursuing. In essence, we would be approaching, say, the Danish Jewish community and proposing to translate the ad into Danish and place it in a prominent daily newspaper, with both of our names appearing at the bottom and some sharing of the costs.

Efforts should be directed, in the first order, at the U.K., with the aim of placing an ad in early to mid January, shortly after the Brits assume the chairmanship of the EU. Austria should also be on our list since they assume the chairmanship of the EU on July 1, 1998. France is always important. And although the Germans already support the concept, the Israelis felt it important that we do something in Germany as well to get the government more active in mobilizing the EU.

Bob and I both indicated that we would do everything possible to get results. It's a good issue for us, and it provides a nice opportunity to build additional bridges to Jewish communities in Europe, assuming their willingness to cooperate.

Please confer among yourselves, with Andy taking the lead as our maven on European minefields, and let me know how you suggest we proceed.

cc: Shula Bahat, Gene DuBow, Felice Gaer