FROM: Ralph Friedman, Chairman
TO: Members of the Foreign Affairs Committee

You will be interested in the following brief summary of special activities carried on by our representatives in Latin America - Maximo Yagupsky in Buenos Aires and Abraham Monk in Rio de Janeiro - in recent months:

BUENOS AIRES

Anti-Semitic Manifestations

The AJC memorandum to Ambassador Wilhelm Grewe of the Federal Republic of Germany and the statement issued in Bonn by the AJC European Office were widely publicized in the Argentine press, and were distributed to key Argentine leaders. Plans were made to publish a booklet containing these statements, as well as editorial comment and other materials, for general circulation.

Members of the Argentine Congress were urged to support a bipartisan bill repudiating racial and religious bigotry and totalitarian systems of government, and urging the Argentine Government to sponsor international action to deal with attacks on human rights.

A TV round-table discussion of the neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic incidents was arranged. Participants included the member of Congress, sponsoring the anti-bigotry legislation; a Catholic leader; the charge d'affaires of the Federal Republic; and Dr. Samuel Tarnopolsky, secretary-general of the Instituto Judío Argentino. The telecast had an important impact on the press and public opinion.

Another result of the telecast was an invitation to Dr. Tarnopolsky to visit the Federal Republic to study the German Government's efforts to eradicate anti-Semitism. Dr. Tarnopolsky accepted the invitation, and the AJC has provided him with background material in preparation for his trip to West Germany.

The Argentine Writers' Society was urged to issue a statement condemning racist and neo-Nazi outbreaks, which was widely publicized.

Immigration

On the recommendation of the Buenos Aires office, a meeting was arranged at the Argentine Embassy in Paris with Dr. Alfredo Vitolo, Argentine Minister of the Interior (who was in Europe for a meeting
of the ICEM), to discuss problems of Jewish immigration into Argentina. Participants included members of the AJC European staff and officers of HIAS and JDC in Europe.

Special Events

In connection with the visit of President Dwight D. Eisenhower to Argentina, the Argentine Jewish press was contacted re publication of articles on the American Jewish community and the relationship of the United States to Israel, and extensive background material was supplied.

In connection with the 900th anniversary of the death of Solomon Ibn Gabirol, distinguished Sephardic poet and philosopher who made outstanding contributions to Spanish culture, plans are being developed for joint action by Argentine Jewish cultural groups and Argentine universities.

A reception was given for General and Mrs. Pedro Aramburu following their return from a trip to Israel and the United States, by the Instituto Judío Argentino, with the cooperation of the AJC office. General Aramburu, a leader in the revolt against Perón and former Provisional President of Argentina, is a key figure in political life. At the reception, he made a statement to the nation lauding Israel as a nation which established economic and political normalcy without resorting to dictatorship.

Research and Publication

In connection with the resolution on anti-Semitism adopted by the UN subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, calling for a study in depth of anti-Semitic and other forms of religious and racial prejudice and requesting information and analysis by private organizations such as the AJC, plans are being made for AJC cooperation in Latin America. Material will be gathered by Mr. Yagupsky in Argentina, Mr. Monk in Brazil, and cooperating individuals and organizations in other countries.

Arrangements were made for publication of "The Plight of the Jews in Eastern Europe" in Spanish in Buenos Aires.

RIO DE JANEIRO

Anti-Semitic Manifestations

The AJC memorandum to the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, in Portuguese, was distributed to key government officials -- including President Juscelino Kubitschek, Vice President João Goulart, Foreign Affairs Minister Horacio Lafer and others; to key publishers, and to directors of the leading newspapers and the Jewish press. The memorandum, and the problem of neo-Nazi outbreaks in
general, were discussed with the President and other leaders by officers of the Instituto Judeo Brasiliiero.

**Jews in the Soviet Union**

Contact was established with a member of a Brazilian government trade mission to the U.S.S.R., and he agreed to raise the question of the status of Jews in the Soviet Union with officials there.

**Intra-Community Activities**

Contact was established with the Grupo Universitario Hebraico, an organization of some 250 Jewish university students in Rio de Janeiro (out of a total of about 600 Jewish students in the city's three universities), for cooperation in distribution of Comentario. It is expected that broader areas of cooperation with the students will be developed in the future.

The AJC office in Rio de Janeiro pledged cooperation with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in arranging a program of activities for a youth group which will visit Brazil later this year.

Mr. Monk participated in and lectured at a Seminar for Jewish Teachers in the state of Sao Paulo and a similar conference in Rio de Janeiro. He also lectured on the American Jewish community at the Institute of Hebrew Culture in Rio de Janeiro.

**Research and Publication**

Plans are being made for a full-scale study of Brazilian legislation on discrimination, civil rights and related subjects, and a corollary study of discrimination in Brazilian life, to be conducted by the AJC office and the Instituto Judeo Brasiliiero.

The AJC office cooperated with the Instituto Judeo Brasiliiero in the launching of a Brazilian version of Comentario in Portuguese. The magazine was distributed to leaders in education, religion, the professions, the arts, the government and other fields, and to American Embassy officials in Brazil and Brazilian officials in the United States. It was widely acclaimed and press comments were universally favorable.

The AJC office published and distributed throughout Brazil the first issue of Informativo in Portuguese, for the use of Jewish community leaders and journalists, containing source material on Germany.

The "farewell speech" of Israel Ambassador Abba Eban to the AJC's 1959 Annual Meeting was published in Portuguese and distributed widely throughout Brazil.