THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

date
March 16, 1972

to
Sheryl Leonard

from
Natalie Flatow

subject
Media Contacts - National Interreligious Consultation on Soviet Jewry

In a small effort to back up your efforts on this mammoth assignment, I made some phone calls to some of the national media -- and also received a few inquiries from other media friends who knew of our involvement. Here is a rundown of the results, plus indications of action you might take in Chicago as followup:

New York Times - Ted Piske, Religion Editor, says he is sending Eleanor Bleau to cover.

AP - George Cornell had already forwarded our release to the Chicago Bureau when I called (George is Religion Editor). He also promised to send a note to Tom Dygard, Chicago Bureau Chief, saying he thinks it's a good story and should be covered. Sheryl - you've probably called Dygard already. Would it be a good idea to give him another ring just as a reminder?

UPI - David Anderson, Religion Editor, who works out of the Washington office, says he will do an "event story" from Washington, and also will ask the Chicago Bureau to cover. Sheryl - I didn't get the name of the Chicago Bureau Chief, but you undoubtedly know him. Have you called?

Religious News Service - Lillian Block, who runs this service, is enormously interested in the Consultation story. She says she has already written to you, Sheryl, and to Sr. Margaret Ellen Traxler - and I am attaching a copy of a letter Marc just received from her. She has asked two of her Chicago stringers to cover for her -- Jim Bowman of the Chicago Daily News, and Jack Bacon of New World. In helping these guys, please be guided by the fact that NEITHER OF THEM SHOULD BE MADE AWARE THAT THE OTHER HAS BEEN ASKED TO COVER FOR RNS. Lillian also wants pictures, especially of the torchlight parade and the Assembly. I will send them to her by hand when you send them to me, Sheryl. Please be sure they are mailed airmail special delivery at the earliest possible moment.

National Catholic News Service - Ben Bolton, who heads this outfit in Washington, says he is also planning to ask Jack Bacon to cover for him. Also, they have a documentation Service called "Origens" in which they publish major texts of all kinds - so Ben wants texts of any speeches if and when available. I am sending him the Hauser text today.
Christian Science Monitor - Florence Mouckley, a CSM reporter in Boston who is friendly to us, has sent the announcement release to Guy Halverson of their Chicago Bureau. Sheryl, you mentioned that you know Halverson, so I assume you have called him by now.

Jewish Telegraphic Agency - Murray Zuckoff, JTA director, says he has no-one in Chicago whom he could ask to cover the story - but of course he's interested in it. Sheryl, in the interest of saving your time and sanity, we are asking Gerry Strober to phone in anything he thinks JTA would want to know about. Gerry, the phone is 212-Mu 3-2840. They will have received our release on Hauser, but if you get good quotes from Evers Sunday night, please call them first thing Monday morning. Also, as soon as you know what resolution or statement may be issued from the afternoon session, please call them with that and also with quotes from Drinan.

Newsweek - Ken Woodward, Religion Editor, is cramped for space and probably will not be able to print anything. However, there is a possibility that he might use a picture from the Assembly or the torchlight parade. He seemed to turn on at the mention of Fulton Sheen. I will hand deliver pictures when you send them, Sheryl.

Time - Mayo Mohs, Religion Editor, seemed quite interested in view of the fact that they are about to come out with a "Jewish cover" in connection with Passover, and our story would fit in well. There's a possibility that someone from Time's Chicago bureau could turn up.

Raphael Rothstein, stringer for the Israeli paper Ha'aretz, stopped in our office yesterday and is very much interested in the story. I gave him the Hauser text. Gerry, please call him at 212-556-1928 on Monday after 11 a.m. Chicago time. He wants quotes from Evers, and anything else you can supply. Come to think of it, you might wait until noon when you should be able to tell him about the press conference.

Gunther Lawrence of the London Jewish Chronicle called this morning and, at his request, I have sent him the Hauser text. He is going to call me Tuesday morning for any further material we may have -- quotes from Evers, Drinan, Assembly speakers, etc., also the text of the statement and resolution. Sheryl and/or Gerry, I'd appreciate it greatly if, between you, you could manage to call me from time to time on Monday with quotes from everyone, and the resolution of course. I will try to do a wrapup release incorporating all the stuff we didn't know in advance.

BLESSINGS ON YOU ALL