September 19, 1985

David Gordis

James Rudin

September 20th News Conference

The six participants in the news conference will be having a working breakfast beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the 20th in the President's Room on the 8th floor. We plan to start as close to 11:00 a.m. as possible and, as we discussed, after your introductory remarks the following speakers should be introduced.

1. Leonard Zeskind, research director, Center for Democratic Renewal (formerly known as the National Anti-Klan Network), Kansas City, Mo. Mr. Zeskind is one of America's acknowledged experts on political extremism and he and his organization devote considerable time and energy to monitoring extremist activities in the Middle West.

2. Dixon Terry. Mr. Terry operates a 240-acre dairy farm near Greenfield, Iowa. He currently serves as chair of the Iowa Farm Unity Coalition, an alliance of farm, church and labor organizations working in support of Iowa farmers. In 1984 Mr. Terry was chosen as one of Esquire's outstanding Americans under 40.

3. Thomas E. Kelly of Topeka, Kansas is the director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, formerly a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Kelly recently completed a term as chairman of the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies and has held numerous positions as an officer and board member in several governmental organizations.

4. Bishop Maurice J. Dingman, Bishop of Des Moines, is a native of that state and has served as Bishop in Des Moines since 1968. The Bishop hosted Pope John Paul II on his visit in 1979 to the States and welcomed the Pope to rural America to highlight the concern of the Catholic Church for rural issues. Bishop Dingman has served as president of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference and he was instrumental in drafting the Food and Agriculture Section of the Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Letter on the Economy.
5. Rev. Donald Manwarren of Des Moines is the executive coordinator of the Iowa Interchurch Forum, a statewide ecumenical agency of 16 member denominations -- Protestant, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox. A native of Illinois, Dr. Manwarren has been very active in agricultural and farming issues.

6. Rabbi A. James Rudin, National Interreligious Affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, formerly served congregations in Kansas City, Mo. and Champaign, Il. Rabbi Rudin has recently concluded a factfinding trip to Iowa and he has also recently visited Wisconsin and Colorado. Rabbi Rudin is the co-author along with Ellen Isler of the AJC background document that is in your kits entitled "The Farm Crisis: Political Extremism and Anti-Semitism."

Acknowledgements

Mimi Alperin, chair AJC's National Interreligious Affairs Commission
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Jonathan Levine, Midwest director of the AJC, Chicago, Il.

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The Rev. David Ostendorf, executive director, Prairiefire, Des Moines, Iowa. Prairiefire is a progressive farm coalition in the state.

AJR/es

cc: Morton Yarmon