

Alfred Bader

General Correspondence

Middle East Children
Association
2002

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FAX FROM:

Dr. Alfred Bader
924 East Juneau Avenue
Astor Hotel -Suite 622
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Ph: 414 / 277-0730
Fax: 414 / 277-0709
e-mail: baderfa@execpc.com

May 7, 1999

TO: Miss Adina Shapiro

Page 1 of _1_

FAX #: 972-2-561-0806

Dear Adina,

Thank you for your three page fax of May 3rd which I have shared with my best friend in the world, your grandfather, and with my son, Daniel.

We smiled at your second last paragraph where you wrote that if this is a project that will interest me you will tell me more about it. Of course, Adina, it interests me and perhaps Daniel and the Helen Bader Foundation also, but you haven't told me what amount of money you are looking for.

Marvin assured me that you are not planning to buy a building, but to rent suitable space.

I look forward to hearing from you and remain with all good wishes

Yours sincerely,

Alfred Bader
AB/az

C: Marvin Klitsner, Esq.
Daniel Bader

*Could we help
via the joint?*



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TRANSACTION REPORT

FOR: ALFRED BADER FINE ARTS 4142770709

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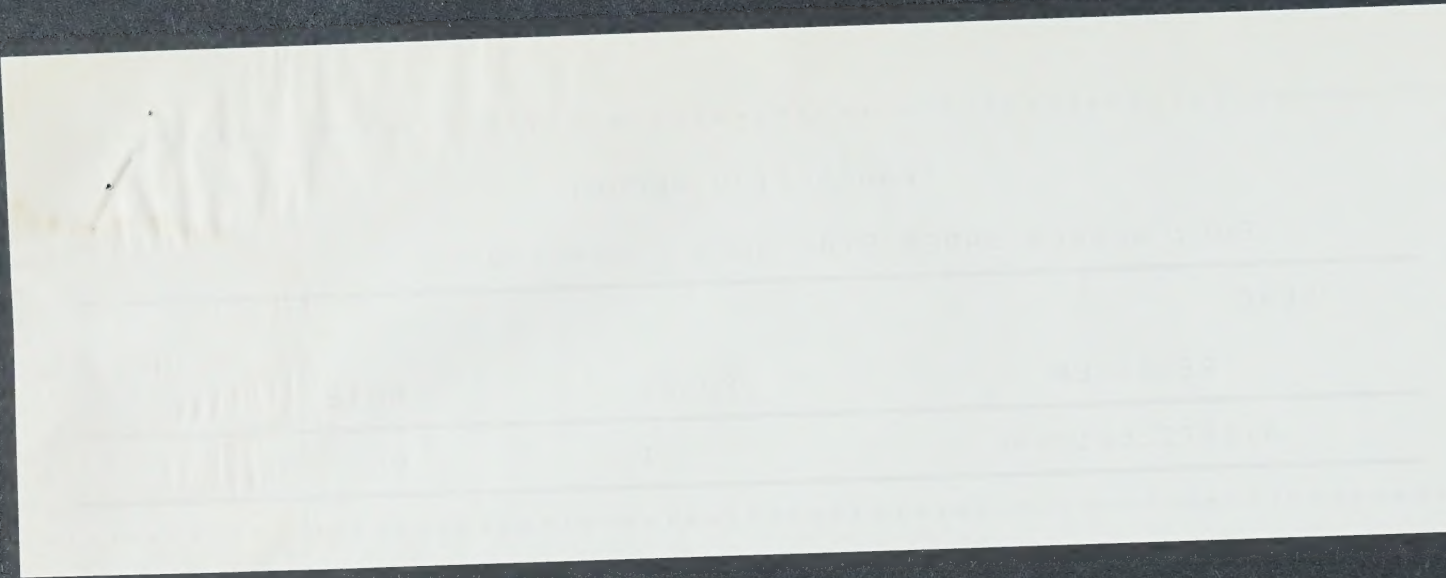
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Thank you for your letter of 11/17/88. I have forwarded it to the appropriate personnel in the office of the Director of the Office of the Inspector General.

The enclosed is a copy of the report which you requested. It is a copy of the report which you requested. It is a copy of the report which you requested.

I look forward to hearing from you and your organization regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely,
James M. [Signature]

James M. [Signature]
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

**Adina Shapiro
5 Cremieux Street
Jerusalem 93109**

May 3, 1999

Dr. Alfred Bader
Alfred Bader Fine Arts
Astor Hotel
924 E. Juneau
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Dear Alfred,

I have been meaning to write to you about my activities in the Middle East Children Association (MECA), since my father and grandfather told me about your interest in helping us further.

MECA is the only joint Israeli - Palestinian organization active in the field of education. (Indeed, it is one of the few joint Israeli - Palestinian organizations active in any field.) Our purpose is to engage Israeli and Palestinian teachers and students in the painstaking but crucially necessary process of peace education leading towards mutual understanding and reconciliation. We have had unprecedented success this year working intensively with over one hundred teachers (half Palestinian and half Israeli) from all over Israel and the West Bank. These teachers meet regularly on a biweekly basis in small focused groups guided by Palestinian and Israeli facilitators distinguished in the field of education. The groups work on projects and curricula in areas such as human rights, arts and even sensitive matters such as history curriculum and violence.

MECA's current emphasis on joint teacher training programs (over joint student activities) is the result of our experience that meetings of Israeli and Palestinian youth will achieve lasting results only if they are supported by a sympathetic educational infrastructure that is itself committed to the goals of peace education.

Allow me to describe to you briefly some of our recent projects:

(1) Developing educational guidelines for educating towards tolerance in a time of political instability. (A program funded by the USAID). As part of this project, involving educators and psychologists and art therapists from both sides, Palestinian and Israeli children were given the opportunity to express in drawing their feelings about the

current situation, some of the children's drawings will be on display at the United Nations Day Year of an emphasis in terms of International Child's Day, opening on May 13th. (Although we are invited to the opening, we are unable to attend because it conflicts with a local event we are running on May 13th). We are also invited to present the project at the U.S. State Department in July, after stopping in Germany, where a delegation of MECA is invited this summer as guests of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.

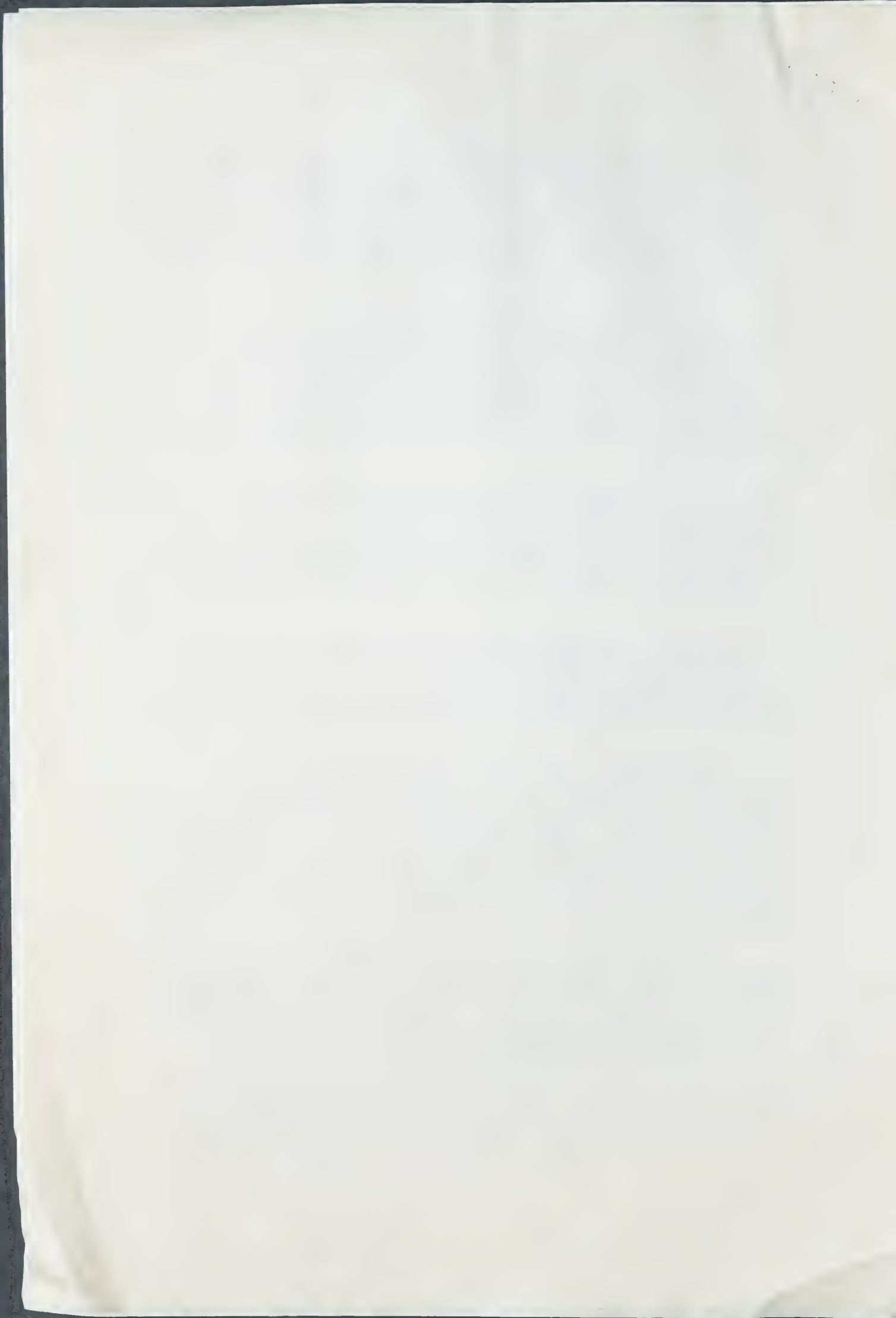
(2) A program in conjunction with the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra and Zabin Melech was a member of MECA. As part of the program, musicians from the Philharmonic and a cooperating orchestra that plays oriental music will go into Palestinian and Israeli schools in Herzliya and in the Jewish development town of Netivot. These are two communities that generally saw each other with suspicion. The program will be concluded some time next November with a concert conducted by Zubin Mehta.

(3) A program funded by UNESCO bringing an Israeli religious and elementary school (Bevra De Herzliya) with a Palestinian religious girls school for joint music education projects. Needless to say, putting such diverse populations together calls for large amounts of planning and educational wisdom, but the project is developing slowly but surely in a friendly spirit in a situation that is in fact endorsed officially by the Israeli and Palestinian governments.

I am very proud of what we have been able to accomplish and I do recall with gratitude that our earliest funding came from the Escher Foundation and from you and TAMAR. As you can see from the above activities, as a result of your help, we have generated enough activity and interest to be the leading organization in joint educational projects, and are frequently consulted by others who are interested in the field.

We have reached the point where we are educationally viable, but as an organization we need a room to house our meetings and the large amounts of material that we have accumulated. I see an importance in establishing a pedagogical center for our activities. This center would include a conference room, a library for the materials that we have developed, and the necessary office facilities that would permit running MECA from a place more suitable than the pocket where I carry my cell phone. Such a center would have to be located in an easily accessible area which is not clearly Arab or Palestinian.

The funding that we have succeeded to obtain is generally earmarked for specific educational projects, and not for organizational expenses and overhead. The sensitive nature of our work requires that we maintain a position of total political independence. Given the current Israeli and Palestinian political cultures, if we become associated with a political faction, we will lose our legitimacy in the eyes of wide sectors of the population which, to date, we are managing to reach (slowly but surely). This is particularly important to me as a religious Jew who is interested in involving my own community which, by and large, is still wary and even hostile to what MECA represents. Needless to say, given the highly politicized nature of this region, our commitment to independence hampers our ability to fund raise.



Dear Mr. [Name]

I am very sorry to hear that you are ill. I hope you will get well soon. I have learned that you are in the hospital. May you and your family be happy and healthy all the time.

Yours truly,
[Signature]

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Subject:

Date: Sun, 28 Nov 1999 13:33:05 +0200

From: Adina Shapiro <mshapiro@in.zahav.net.il>

To: kehat@acm.org, baderfa@execpc.com, miriamed@juno.com, xrky83a@prodigy.com, dklitsner@aol.com, Daniel.Halperin@diogenes.hcuge.ch, Debkram@aol.com, rgois@aol.com, kgorelik@hotmail.com, dicker.pmnjlr@gkb.com, jswesq@aol.com, Lmedv@aol.com, tklitsn@sandia.gov, tklitsn@aol.com

I thought you all would be interested in the following brief writeup of my association's last event.

Regards, Adina

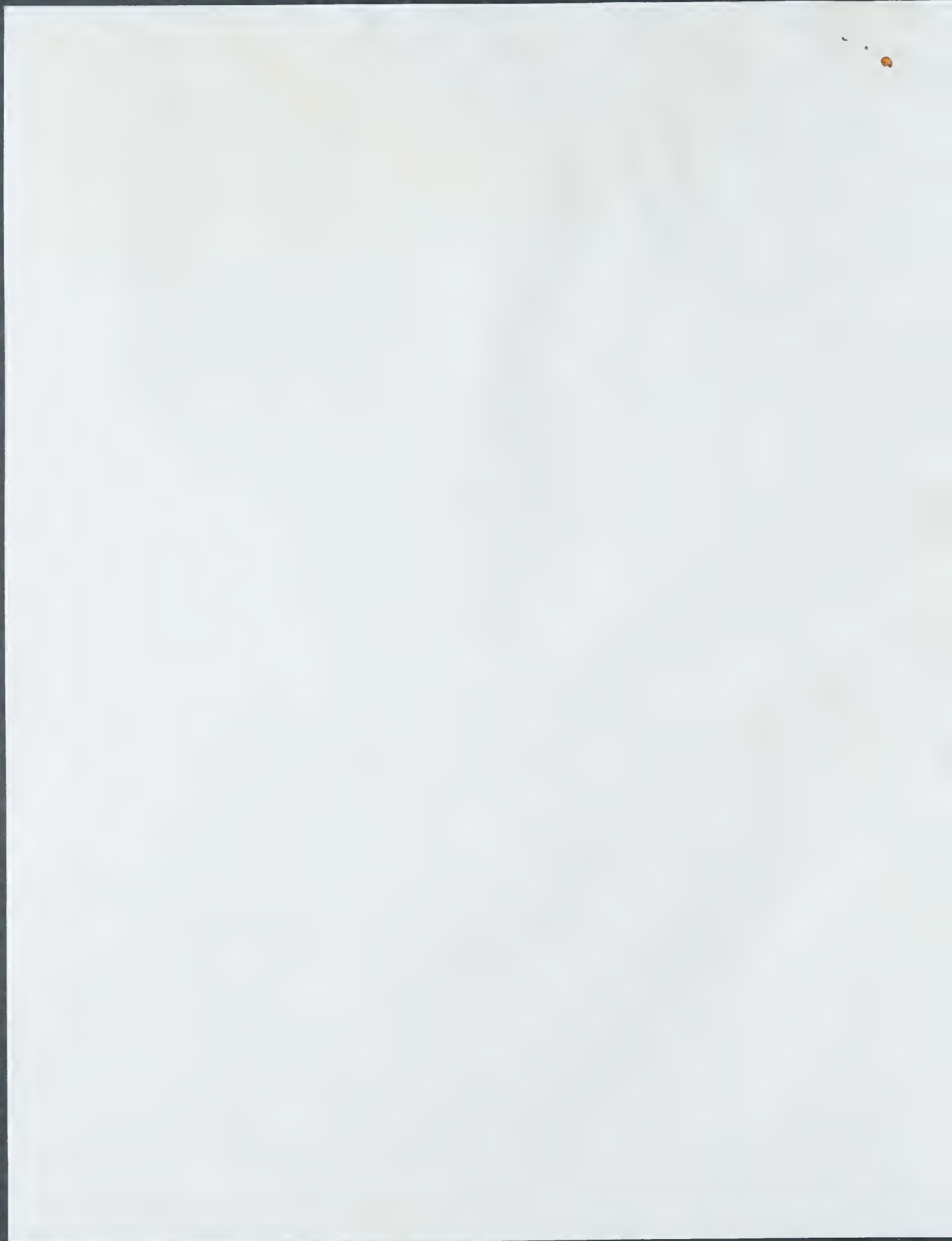
On November 25, 1999, the the Middle Eastern Children Association (MECA) celebrated the completion of the first part of its Cooperative Music Project with a special, private concert of the renowned Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Maestro Zubin Mehta, for two hundred fifty Palestinian and Israeli children from the Palestinian refugee camps in the Bethlehem area and the Israeli development town of Beit Shemesh.

These two hundred fifty Israeli and Palestinian children, who were participating in MECA sponsored music appreciation sessions in cooperation with musicians from the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the Arab Music Orchestra, met throughout the past year in their home towns. They came together at the YMCA concert hall in Jerusalem this past Thursday to hear a full symphony orchestra, most for the first time in their life. As the children arrived and waited for the concert to begin, they sat together playing and drawing their joint impressions of the theme of the day. Each child then received a colorful MECA t-shirt, and as they randomly found their places in the hall, they were all children without the differentiation of religion or nationality.

The concert, covered by several major newspapers and the local television and radio news network, opened at 11:30 a.m. with several pieces performed by approximately 80 musicians of the Israeli Philharmonic, conducted by Maestro Zubin Mehta. Excerpts from a Slavic Dance by Dvorak, the first movement of Rachmaninov's second piano concerto (performed by the Palestinian soloist Salim Abud), and Beethoven's 7th Symphony were interspersed with bilingual explanations and group interaction by the same facilitator who had accompanied the children throughout the preparatory sessions. Maestro Mehta actively involved the children in a joint rhythmic exercise which accompanied the 3rd movement of Beethoven's 7th Symphony, and then invited a Palestinian boy and an Israeli girl up to the stage to jointly conduct the Philharmonic in a charming rendition of Strauss' "Thunder and Lightning".

The second half of the concert was performed by the Arab Music Orchestra, conducted by Suheil Radwan and featuring a woman singer who performed several love ballads for the children. Also during this part of the concert there were two special performances by the children themselves, first by a jazz saxophone quartet of children from Beit Shemesh, and then by seven children from the Bethlehem area who sang and danced a traditional Arab dance, the "debka".

At the conclusion of the concert, the children were invited to sit outside on the grass in front of the YMCA, where they ate lunch together. Every child received a packet with pictures and educational exercises about the various musical instruments, and cassette tapes containing some of the music they had heard in the concert. Two hours after the concert began, the children boarded their respective buses and returned to their schools, carrying with them not only souvenirs, but also memories of peaceful



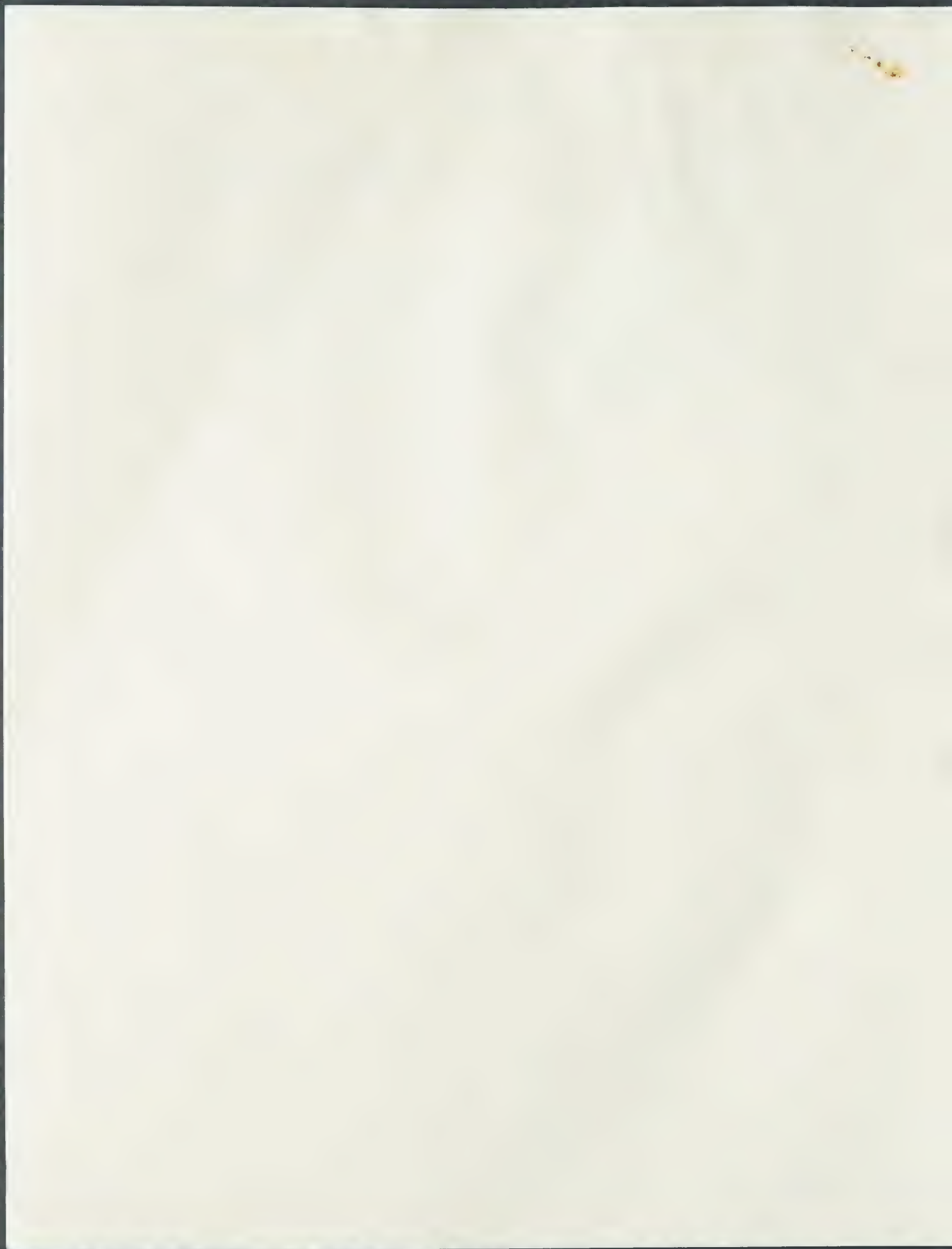
interaction and a shared experience with other children.

As we explained to the children throughout the program, the musical instruments, like them, are all different and unique and it is important to maintain that individuality. However, there is also the possibility from time to time to get together and create beautiful harmony, such as that which was heard this past Thursday.

The Middle East Children's Association (MECA) was founded in 1996 by Palestinian and Israeli educators, who strive to strengthen the peace process by working in the field of education. It has organized numerous seminars, workshops and dialogue groups for teachers and students, and this year its programs will positively affect the lives of over 400 participants. This success comes to a great extent as a result of the organization's considerable experience in cooperative efforts; its joint Israeli-Palestinian makeup grants MECA a unique awareness and sensitivity to the challenges associated with cooperative projects of this nature.

5 Cremieux Street
Jerusalem 93109
Israel

Tel & Fax ++972-2-561-0806



Subject: Jewish - Arab Programs and other

Date: Sun, 16 Sep 2001 02:58:32 +0200

From: "Adina Shapiro" <meca@netvision.net.il>

To: <baderfa@execpc.com>

Dear Alfred,

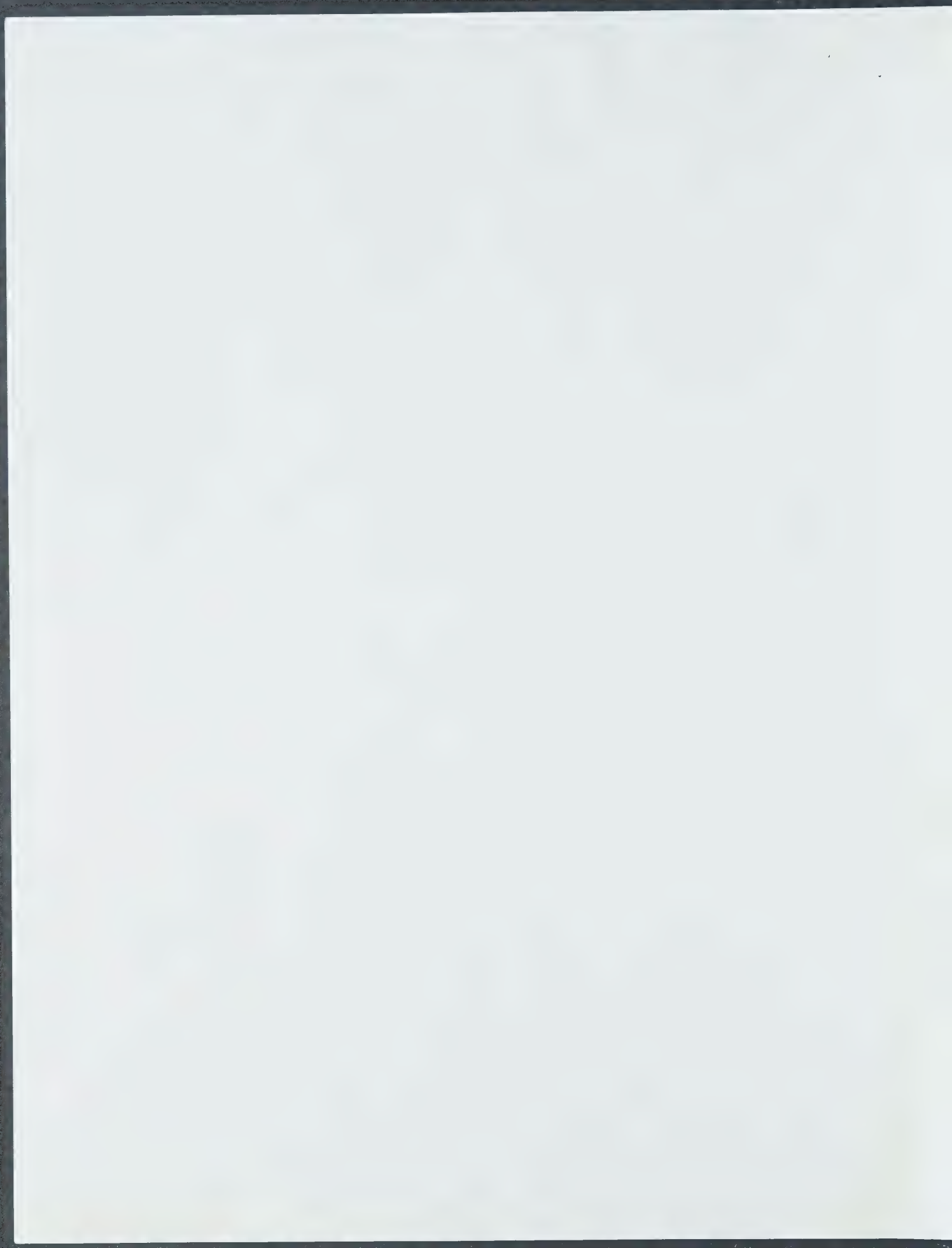
I am going through several piles on my desk of things which i have not responded to during the whirlwind of the seminars abroad during the summer and then my grandfathers' passing away. Before I respond (a little late) to your question vis-a-vis Jewish Arab programs in Israel, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few other things as well.

You may well imagine the significant void which my grandfather has left behind for all of us and for me specifically. I believe that my work with Palestinian's put a special twist on my grandfather's relationship with me, as it was a rare situation where he was not the one to blaze the path for me, yet afterwards was there to support (morally and financially). We have just concluded a successful summer where we sent 5 groups of Palestinian and Israeli educators abroad for educational dialogue during the most difficult of times. I do not know when, if ever, we will reap the fruit of these venture, but we can clearly see (as I believe you did when you visited the group in England), the ray of light through the commitment of people on both sides toward something which is crucial to stability in our region, and following this weeks horrifying events, in the entire world. This week, we also signed the contract with the US government for support over the next two years. Our work will be much easier now that we have such a significant grant which requires matching funds, more than 60% are already raised (mainly from the EU). I am fully aware that MECA's activities could not have taken place without the unrelenting generosity of yours, the HB foundation and subsequently my grandfather as well...I believe that his support was to a certain extent a result of your encouragement, and I wanted to let you know that has meant a very great deal to me. I know that you said that you cherished my Saba's wisdom and advice, as did we all. But I appreciate him also for his open mind and in this situation it was he who followed your advice and I would like to believe, was grateful for it. One of my last conversation's with Saba was about the seminar in England and I could see how pleased he was to hear about it, and can attest to how pleased I was to be able to have had it take place and to be able to share the excitement with him. Thank you for allowing this to take place and for playing such a significant role in having my grandfather involved in it.

Now to your question with regard to the Arab Israelis. I am approached many times on this issue and although I am quite familiar with the field I must stress in advance that the area of Jews and Arabs in Israel is somewhat different than Palestinian-Israeli relations, which is the focus of my current energies. That said, I have been thinking more and more about the topic recently and feel that it is a an issue of great importance (if not the most now within Israel) which I hope personally to become more involved in. Here is a brief overview of organizations dealing with the issue. It is just the tip of the iceberg as there are many many such initiatives in Israel. Less, which actually have an impact - yet every drop counts. Please note that there are two kinds of activities:

1. Empowerment of the Arab Community
2. Investment in building understanding between the Arab and Jewish communities in Israel.

As for the first, the only organizations which can do this sincerely are the Arab organizations. Any Jewish organization which tried to "help" the Arabs help themselves, has not succeeded in the long run, mainly because they were eventually perceived (and in many cases, rightfully so) by the Arabs as paternalistic and opportunistic. There are several Arab originations doing



such work. Some do good work, although I am not as familiar with these originations. If you would like, I could try to get you a list of them and more information. It could be that many of these organizations are supported by the New Israel Fund. The joint actually does work quite quietly in that area which seems to be good.

As for the issue of the attitude of the Jewish population towards the Arab and vice versa, I will give you a short overview of the significant players:

1) the academic groups which do interesting work that I frequently consult. these groups, do not have the grassroots work at all -

a. the Truman center at Hebrew university which I believe focuses more on Israeli Palestinian issues,

b. the Negev institute (I believe this is part of Ben Gurion university) - they are supported by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (as are many other such projects).

c. Haifa University Center for Research on Peace Education. The center is headed by Gabi Salomon, a wonderful man who has received the Israel Award for education this year.

d. the dayan center, rabin center and golda meir center - all of which have very limited scope and do not seem to have a significant impact, although they do some very impressive programs. -

2) as for the grassroots organizations there are:

a. givat haviva - which has existed for many years. their basic rationale is that the arab issue must be addressed through political activism and their programs are highly politicized. This may have a positive effect yet it limits the target audiences. they have a lot of experience and work with many groups throughout the country. they also have Arabs in managerial positions, which is unfortunately lacking in most similar organizations.

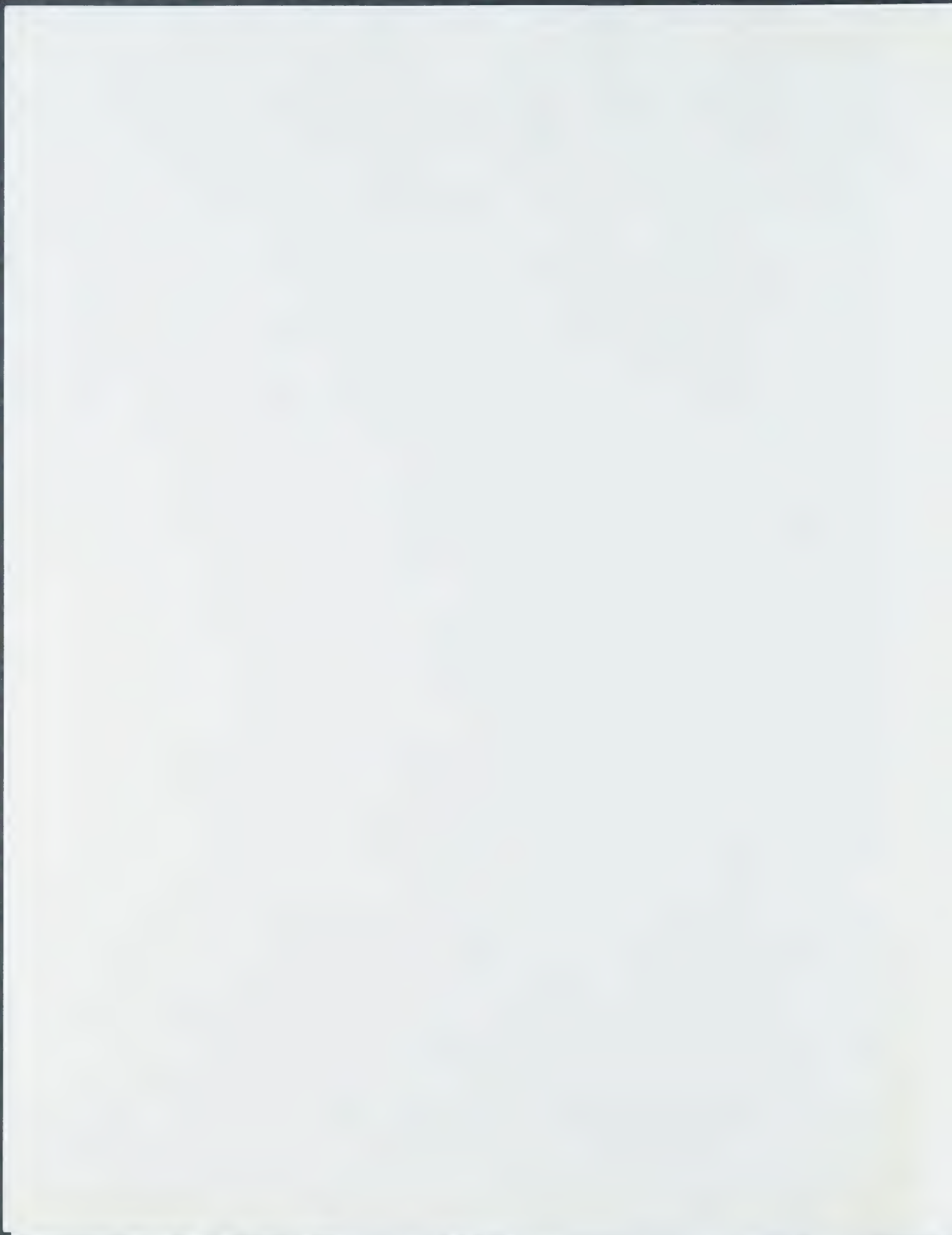
b. neve shalom - is a joint arab jewish village which also does alot of dialogue programs. Their approach is unique in as it is a situation where arabs and jews live together. this concept is somewhat different than mainstream jewish or Arab in the country. that said, their experience is fed by a great deal of hands on experience, and total involvement of both Jews and Arabs.

c. the Abraham fund (which may also fund programs of the above) is a foundation dedicated solely to this issue. it was started by Alan Slifka from NY. They support a wide range of the initiatives in this field which exist within other organizations. They probably have the most comprehensive list of programs and also force their recipients to be in touch with one another so that each does not reinvent the wheel. The most impressive aspect of the Abraham fund is that they subject themselves to outside evaluation to their conduct. A recent evaluation of such programs was done by Yifat Maoz from Hebrew University.

d. there are many institutions which do specific programs within their general scope of activity such as the van Leer Institute, the David Yellin College, the Adam Institute, and many many more. These programs can be very successful, however sometimes they do not have long lives because the organization has more than one focus and they bow out at the hint of trouble (which is an integral part of the work).

e. Charles Bronfman - CRB - does a lot of educational work in Israel and have a whole section on Arabs. They seem to do good work in that field and have access to many schools. Same for the Institute for Educational Technology.

f. ulpan akiva - a center which focuses on learning the language and culture of the other. their distinctive characteristic is in that it focuses on language as a springboard for all other issues.



3) there is also alot of work done in the arab sector or with them by the political parties - especially labor, meretz , but also by likud. i must say that in my own subjective opinion, these efforts are important, yet more than promoting the cause they promote the political parties (which is an important cause within itself in a democratic state). These parties main contribution is in the lobbying work that they do in parlament to make sure that arab rights are addressed.

Well, you must find this overview almost as overwhelming as someone trying to make heads or tails out of it over here. just about every local organization addresses the issue in one way or another, so i tried to list the main efforts. I will not add more specifics at this point, but will be glad to if you wish on any specific topic. I recived several invitations a day to such programs, and can not respond to them all. so i do not assume that i have the best knowledge of everything. what i mentioned are the main organizations most of which i have been in touch with and have representatives at general gatherings of the type which i am invited to.

Just a few concluding thoughts when approaching the issue:

1) any program with Arabs should involve Arabs in planning, implementation and in influential positions within the program. this is significantly lacking in most programs.

2) there should be thought given to the unavoidable link between addressing the "Arab Jewish" question in Israel, and engaging in political debate. the appropriate question is , in my opinion, what is the appropriate balance between them.

3) the issue is also directly linked to the nature of the state of Israel as a Jewish(?) - democratic state.

4) there are many initiatives, and in my opinion, to little cooperation. each new effort tries, unsuccessfully to create an umbrella for everyone else ...these should be, in my opinion, thought given to how to join forces on this matter.

that is about all for now...

all the best and regards to isabel,
adina

p.s. daniel spoke beautifully at Saba's shloshim.



ELLEN DAHRENDORF

Dr. Alfred Bader
2961 North Shepard Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

October 7, 2001

Dear Dr. Bader,

The copy of your letter to Norman Rosenberg arrived like a ray of sunshine during these troubled days and weeks. It is a difficult time for basic decent values – in Europe and the United States and even more so in Israel. Your overwhelmingly generous donation means not only practical help but also crucial moral support (for me as well, I might add). Thank you!!

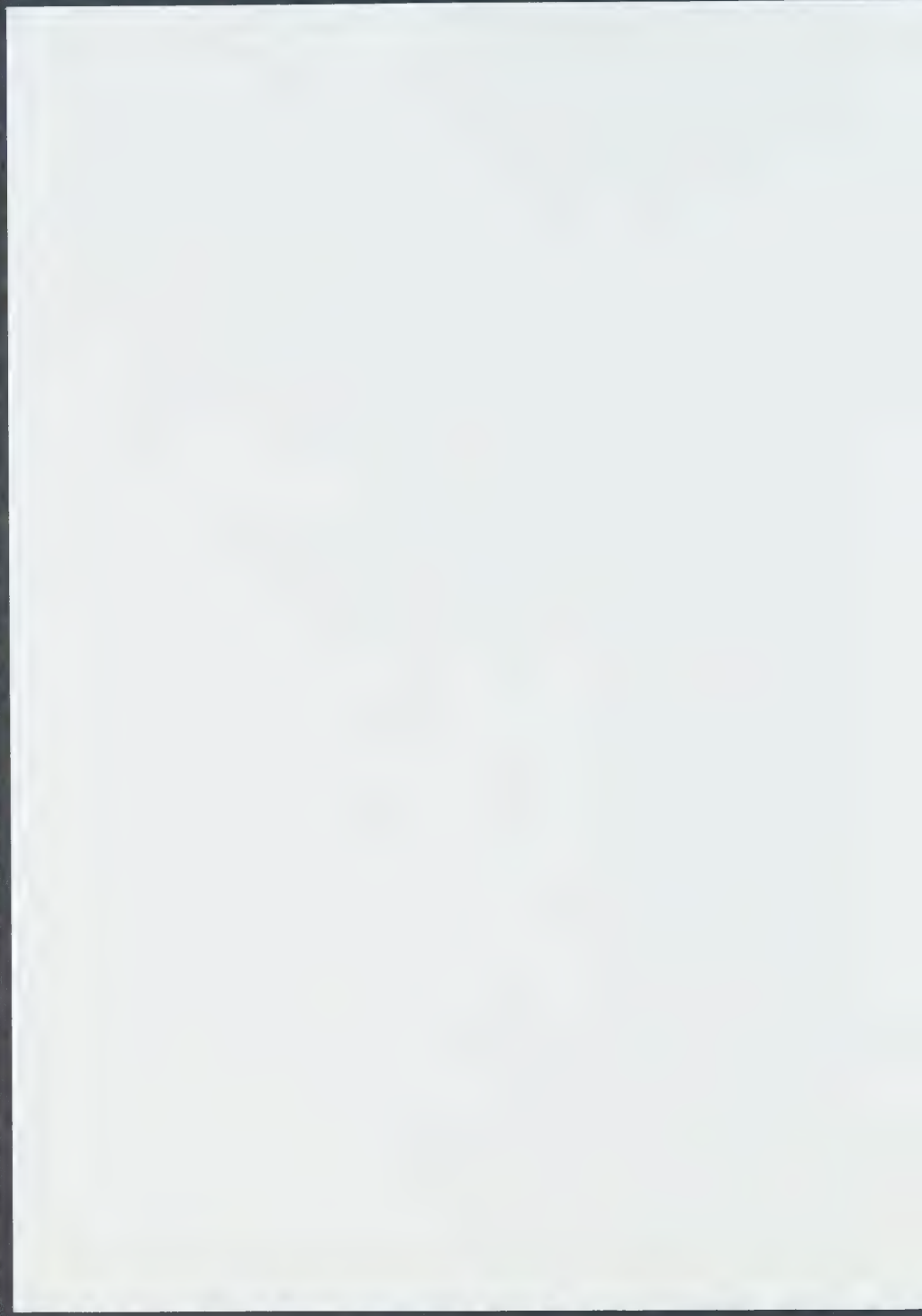
I was so glad to read Adina's moving, intelligent letter and pleased that she is getting the recognition she deserves. I'm still haunted by Ghassan's story at the dinner when we met, the wanton cruelty of his separation from his family. *Meca* is indeed a point of light.

It would be a great pleasure to see you again on your next visit to London.

With warm good wishes,

Ellen Dahrendorf
Lady Dahrendorf

98 FROGNAL, LONDON NW3 6XB



Newsletter

November 2001



Summer Abroad

Taking advantage of the onset of the summer vacation, MECA succeeded in sending 80 Israeli and Palestinian educators, distributed equally in terms of numbers, abroad for a few days. Educational activities during the year had been somewhat strained in light of the frustrating and ever-disheartening situation in our region. Traveling abroad for a short while afforded participants sufficient headspace and detachment from the perplexing reality so as to engage one another and the issues in a conducive and non-threatening environment.

The participants were grouped into five subject specializations, and below is a brief outline of each group that departed. These excursions were made possible as a result of a grant received from the European Union People-to-People Program, with the exception of the Music Group that received the generous sponsorship of Alfred Bader.

(Unfortunately however, seven additional groups were prepared but were unable to depart due to their departure dates coinciding with the more turbulent weeks of the summer and increased tension in the region as a whole.)

The seminar for the **School Principals Group** took place between 29th July and 2nd August in Turkey. The principals and vice principals participating met and discussed various joint challenges facing the educational communities of the Palestinian Authority and Israel. Together the group members succeeded in formulating a plan for the year ahead and have expressed a strong desire to continue their work.

A dialogue group known as **Environment** and comprised of teachers from cities in central Israel and villages in the north of the PA, traveled to Turkey at the same time – 29th July to 2nd August.

Discussions touched various topics of mutual concern regarding the environment. The participants also conducted an introspective and personal reflection on the cultural and emotional 'baggage' that they each bring to a bi-national encounter of that kind. They shared and openly discussed the various cultural nuances that make them similar and celebrated those that make them different.





Teachers also discussed the importance of preserving and respecting the environment and natural wildlife in the region as a whole.

A **Music & Arts Group** journeyed to England between 25th July and 2nd August, and the seminar was a great success. The participants visited Herstmoncaux Castle and the Canadian Queen's University. Having received much positive feedback from the excursion, the participants in the group have expressed a strong desire to continue their work together and are currently in the motions of drafting their plans for the year ahead.



The **History (His-story) Group** journeyed to Turkey between the 5th and 12th of August. Participants were able to cement the interpersonal relationships that they had established over the year, and also engaged one another in the dialogue process – discussing the 1947 Partition Plan, the Palestinian refugee problem and national-religious and political attachments to Jerusalem.

A group dedicated to **Non-Violence** traveled to Turkey between 5th and 9th August. The group has drafted a project proposal that calls for the exchange of essays between Palestinian and Israeli pupils and stands on the rationale that it is necessary to create a framework for understanding how children respond to life in a violent society.

Each group that departed was accompanied by a pair of facilitators - one Palestinian and one Israeli and were responsible for guiding the teachers toward constructing an educational process for their students. MECA's facilitators all have affiliations with the educational world, yet they come from various fields of expertise; be they experienced teachers, psychologists or curriculum developers. MECA has 15 such pairs operating during the year, and each pair of facilitators works with between 16 and 20 teachers (half Israeli and half Palestinian).

Advisory Team

In recognizing the crucial role played by our group of dedicated facilitators, and in actualizing the various lessons learned as a result of the summer, an Advisory Team was convened on two occasions during October - on the 4th and between 11th and 12th at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem. This bi-national setting was an important mechanism for MECA to hear and learn from the more experienced members of our organization and to incorporate their suggestions into our strategic plan.

This Advisory Team consisted of 5 Palestinians and 6 Israelis and met in order to contribute to the contents of a Facilitator Training Manual (which was later presented to the facilitators as part of their training in early November). Discussions at the Advisory Team revolved around the various skills and qualities necessary for meaningful facilitation, the cultural similarities and differences that are implicit and important to acknowledge when conducting bi-national activities, and how practical lessons learned from the summer can be incorporated in the training program for facilitators.

The Advisory Team was fortunate to receive sponsorship from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Facilitator Training Seminar

The tranquility and peaceful environment of Tantur Ecumenical Institute provided the setting for the Facilitator Training Seminar, which took place over the 1st and 2nd of November 2001. The seminar was a great success and was attended by 33 active participants – 16 Israelis and 17 Palestinians. Together the bi-national group took part in informative discussions, from both guest lecturers and from more experienced facilitators, on facilitation skills such as active listening, crisis management, and the challenging role played by a facilitator. They also shared with one another insights and experiences gained from the summer, and were updated about MECA's new organizational structure.



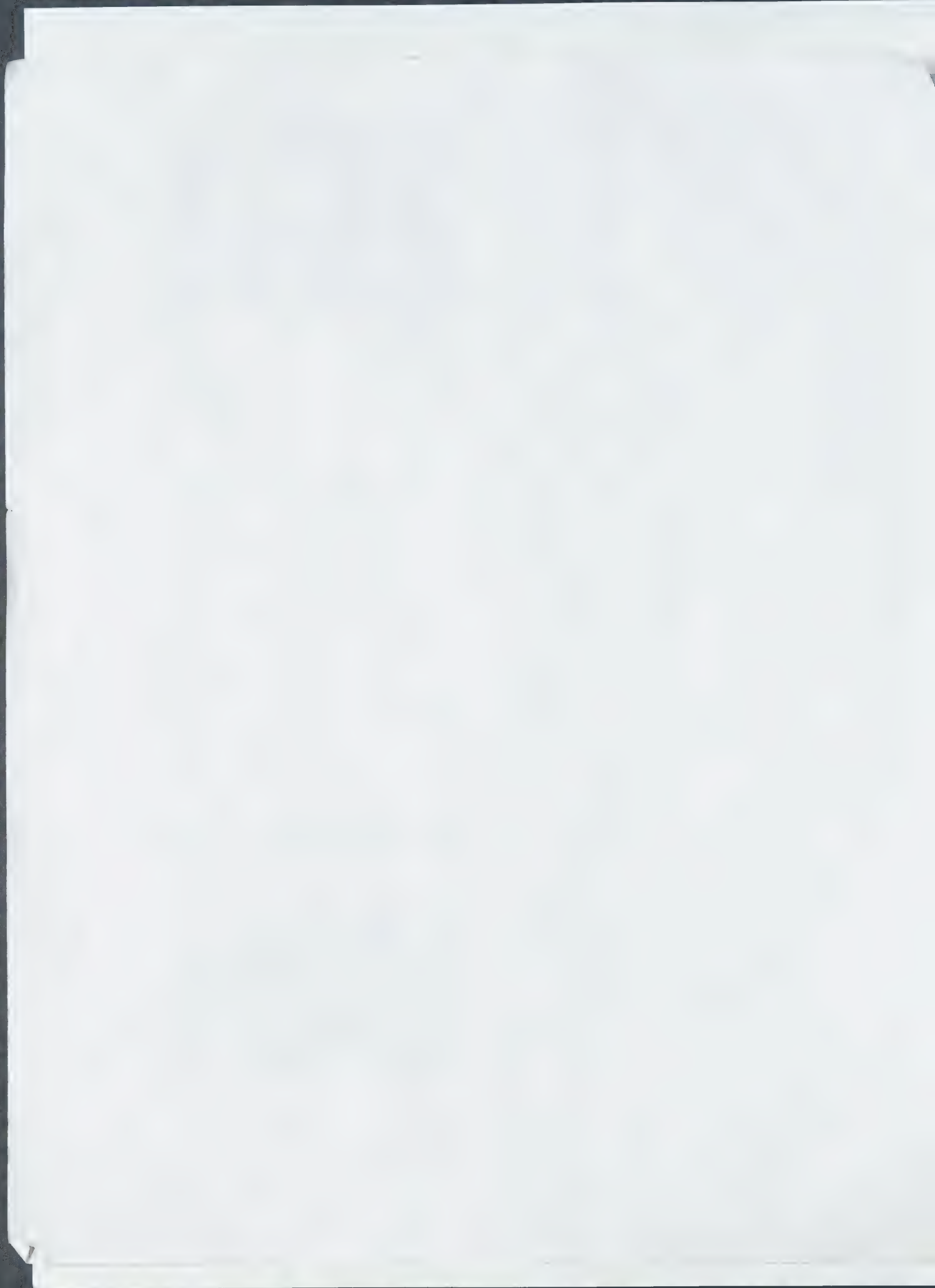
This training seminar was the platform from which MECA presented its new Facilitator Training Manual – a document that contains a detailed plan of activity for one scholastic year’s work with the organization. Highlights include: explanations about practical facilitation skills that facilitators develop with experience and a step-by-step outline of what should be included in the numerous “uni-national” or “bi-national” encounters with teachers that have been scheduled for the year ahead.

Three main focus areas have informed the way each of MECA’s groups have been modified so that they may operate better under the current difficult circumstances pervading our region. The first of these is a category known as **Text Based Groups**, and seeks to evaluate existing textbooks in terms of their ability to encourage freedom of thought and expression, and the extent to which they relate to violence, hatred of the ‘other’ and stereotyping. A second aspect of this category is the development of lesson plans and materials for educational enrichment. Groups that are defined by this category are; Human Rights, English, Language, an Inter-disciplinary module, History, Mathematics, Civics and Social Science, and Literature.



A second category, known as **Project Based Groups** defines those groups that operate as projects in incorporating student involvement on a very functional level. In these groups a working team of students accompanies the teachers and help to better understand the effects of the project at the ‘grass-roots’ level. Groups included in this category are: Non-Violence (coping with violence), School Principals, Music and Art, Oral History, and Pre-School teachers.

The final facet to MECA’s new structure is the **Overall Learning Unit** and informs the ethos and underlying premises implicit in our activities. These are represented by the values of tolerance and non-violence. In keeping with the Overall Learning Unit and in an attempt to introduce old and new members to one another, orientation days were held in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Tel-Aviv and Jenin. In these sessions teachers from all groups were invited to attend a half-



day encounter where they heard a lecture on the psychological impact that that current resurgence of violence has on the youth of this region. These meetings are an important platform for MECA to expand its bank of committed teachers, to improve rapport between its members, and to encourage communication on an intra-group level.

The Facilitator Training Seminar was made possible due to a generous sponsorship from the Wye River People-to-People Exchange Program.

New Family Members !

During the month of October we welcomed six new Coordinators. Welcome aboard!

The Coordinators invite you to contact our liaison offices in Ramallah and Jerusalem and will be happy to help you with any information about our upcoming activities and projects.



P.O. Box 31807 Jerusalem 91000.
Tel. (02) 624-7227, (02) 295-4021.
Fax. (02) 624-7392, (02) 298-6127.
Email. meca@netvision.net.il



Middle East Children Association

January 2002

Dr. Alfred Bader
Astor Hotel suite 622, 924 East Juneau Ave.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Dear Dr. Bader, *Alfred*

With the peoples of our region facing a violent and often disheartening reality, we at the Middle East Children Association remain firm in our resolve to engage Palestinian and Israeli educators in professional dialogue, as a means to developing educational materials that promote tolerance and understanding. It is through this process that we hope to prepare a better future for the children of the Middle East.

In this light, any support we receive, be it financial or moral, gives us the added strength to continue our important work. We therefore take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for all your kind assistance, support and encouragement received over the last few months, and are happy to be sending you our latest newsletter and the following update of our most recent activities.

Human Rights Seminar in Paris

Between the 17th and 23rd of December 2001 a group of Israeli and Palestinian teachers traveled to Paris to take part in a seminar on Human Rights education. This group was originally scheduled to travel during the summer but was delayed due to a particularly severe period of turbulence in the region. A total of 24 people managed to travel and take part in the seminar. Outcomes of the seminar are manifold: five sets of educational activities designed for use in the classroom and based on human rights education were designed and collected by the seminar participants. Interpersonal ties between the educators from both nations were slowly cemented as each individual gradually approached the 'other' in an effort to enhance understanding and communication. The group was fortunate enough to meet with representatives from UNESCO for a day of discussions and orientation. Contact between the members remains strong and the group is due to continue work in mid January. The Human Rights seminar was made possible through generous donations from private donors and through a grant from the United States Institute for Peace (USIP).

Oral History Project

The Oral History Group met for a two-day Bi-National meeting of dialogue and training over 3rd and 4th January 2002. The participants heard lectures on the process of taking testimony. Dr. Adel Yichya, a prominent researcher and academic who is gathering testimony from the first Intifada gave the group some conceptual guidance, as did Ms. Tova Biala, a well known television journalist who is skilled in interview



techniques. These individuals helped to ready the group for when the project eventually reaches the schools. The facilitators also presented a conceptual framework for the project, and gathered questions and feedback from the teachers who will actually be responsible for its implementation. Discussions shed light on the important role the project will play in reaching the "ordinary people" of the two societies, and giving them the opportunity to tell their personal stories. Oral history is considered a valuable tool that provides a voice to those who by virtue of their gender, socio-economic disposition or power, are otherwise silent. As a group, the participants began to understand one another on both the professional and interpersonal levels.

School Principals

The School Principals Group met for a Bi-National meeting on January 3, 2002. Their day was divided into catching up both personally and professionally, since they had last gathered in Turkey during July 2001. Three principals had visited one another in the schools in East- and West-Jerusalem and spoke of potential joint projects between these schools. Two principals discussed the impact of their teachers having participated in the Human Rights Seminar in Paris, and promoted further involvement of the teachers from all principals' schools in MECA activities. A **Students Group** is forming between two other schools represented by principals in the forum. The principals will be examining programs and discussing methods to cope with increasing violence and more extreme views held by students, teachers and parents.

Some highlights of the ongoing meetings between facilitators

Facilitators from the **Music** group met and discussed their plans for the year, setting dates for various Uni-National and Bi-National encounters expected during the next few months.

The facilitators from one of our **Non-violence** groups met and began developing a group profile - based on the Uni-National meetings that the group has had to date. The team also completed their reports and gave feedback to the one another and to MECA regarding their potential direction and upcoming joint work.

Facilitators from one of the **Pre-school** groups also met and they began constructing a plan for the scope of their activities. The pair spent a little time getting to know one another and managed to set dates and objectives up until the summer 2002.

Wishing you well and thanking you for all your support and encouragement.
Sincerely yours,

Ms. Adina Shapira
Co-Director

Dr. Ghassan Abdullah
Co-Director



Dear Steve,

Thank you for today's e-mail.

Your plans seem just right and I look forward to giving the talk entitled *The Bible Through Dutch Eyes* (Rembrandt and the Jews) on Sunday, the 7th.

We also look forward to attending the Tsad Kadima dedication. You probably know that we sent them a gift of \$72,000 in August, of course in memory of the best friend I ever had. There are four of us in the family and so 72 is just 4 x 18.

I look forward to you and Adina guiding us how to help Israeli Arabs.

With regards to you and the family,
Alfred

Shmuel Klitsner wrote:

Dear Alfred,

We were all pleased to hear that you and Isabel will come God willing for Pesach. We look forward to Seder together with you and with Tomash of whom we are very fond, (having spent several shabbat meals with him at our home).

The School for Torah and the Arts moved into their new premises this past Sept., and they would like to dedicate the art studio during your visit- the studio sponsored by Dad z'l with the Emanuels and David and Daniel in honor of your 75th birthday. I understand you are scheduled to leave on

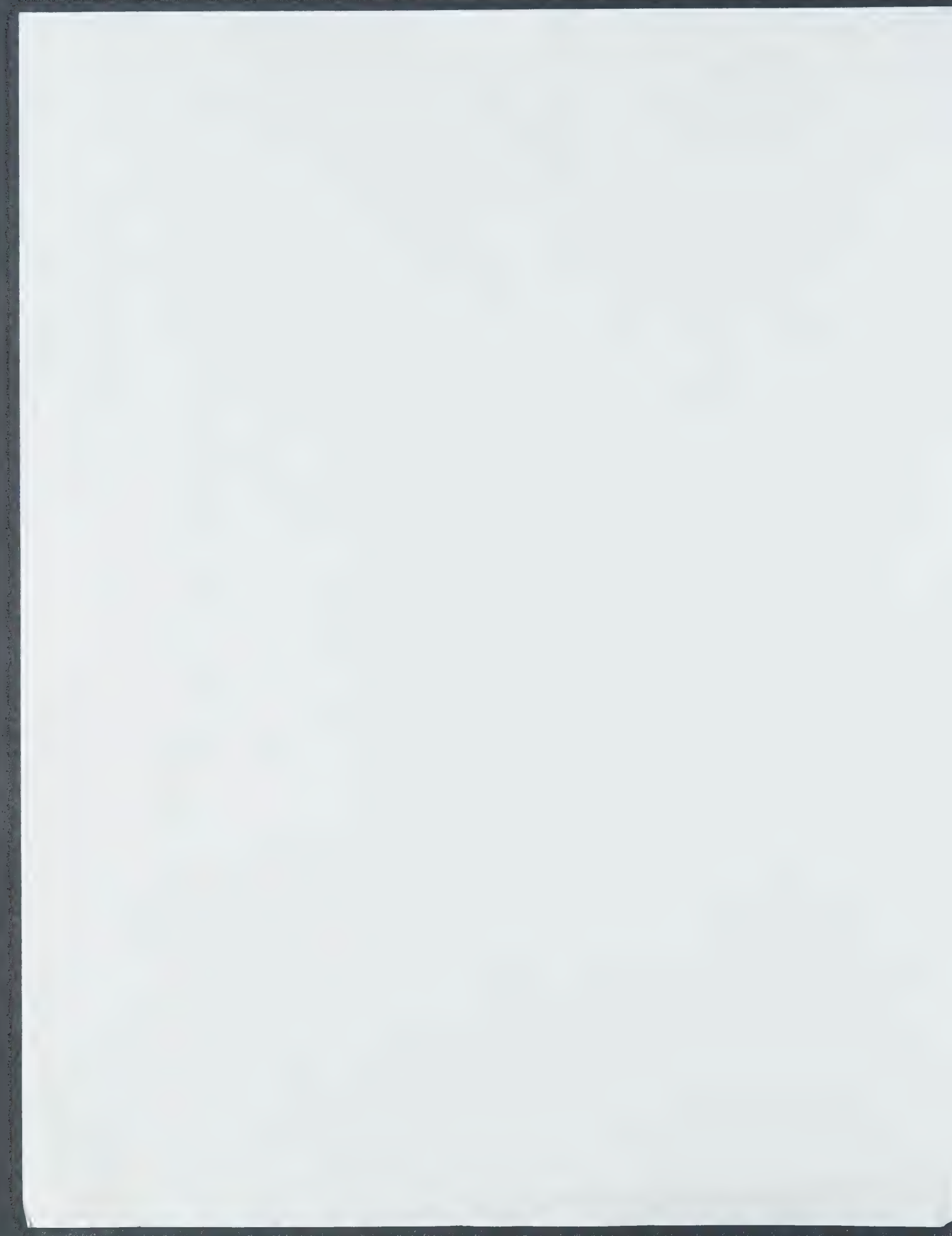
Monday Sept. 8 and would like to tell them to have the dedication on Sun.

April 7th- hopefully accompanied by a lecture on the Bible and Dutch Art. (

Last time you spoke about the Detective's Eye.) We would also like you to attend a small dedication of a Tsaad Kadima kindergaten that day in memory of Dad. If this seems good, please confirm and I'll give the go-ahead to the various planners.

I haven't forgotten about your interest in helping Israeli Arab communities and have been making some inquiries. I'll write again soon with some suggestions.

Warmest regards to Isabel, Steve



Subject: Re: your visit to Israel
From: Alfred Bader Fine Arts <baderfa@execpc.com>
Date: Thu, 21 Feb 2002 11:32:10 -0600
To: Wolff <wolffjrs@netvision.net.il>
CC: Tomas Kucera <tom.el@post.cz>

Dear Denny,

Thank you for your important e-mail of today.

Isabel and I are arriving by El-Al, Flight 204, on Monday, March 25th, at 5 PM. Maybe El-Al has changed, but in the past it was not always on time.

There are three people that I would really like to meet. One is Dr. Gerster of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and Adina has told me that we are invited for supper on Tuesday, March 26th. Also, I would like to have a long chat with Adina's counterpart among the Palestinian teachers working with MECA, Dr. Ghassan. But most important is my meeting with Rabbi Michael Melchior. Meeting him might be possible during one of the last days during Chol HaMoed or on Sunday, April 7th, at a time which would not interfere with an event at the art studio where I am to give a talk on paintings or at the dedication of the Tsad Kadima kindergarten in memory of Marvin, both of which are being arranged by Steve.

Isabel has never been to Sfad, Nazareth or Tiberias. Hence, we hope to leave Jerusalem by car on Sunday morning, March 31st, then drive to Haifa where Professor Gutman has asked me to give a talk on the History of Aldrich at 3 PM in the Chemistry Department of the Technion. We plan to have Tomas Kucera accompany us on this two or three day trip and he is looking around for a driver.

Of course it would be ideal if one of Marvin's 19 grandchildren could drive us, because that would give us the great pleasure of getting to know her or him better. But it may well be that all of them are busy. In any case, please do arrange the meeting with Rabbi Melchior, if at all possible, at a time when you and Francie could be with us.

With many thanks and all the best,
Alfred

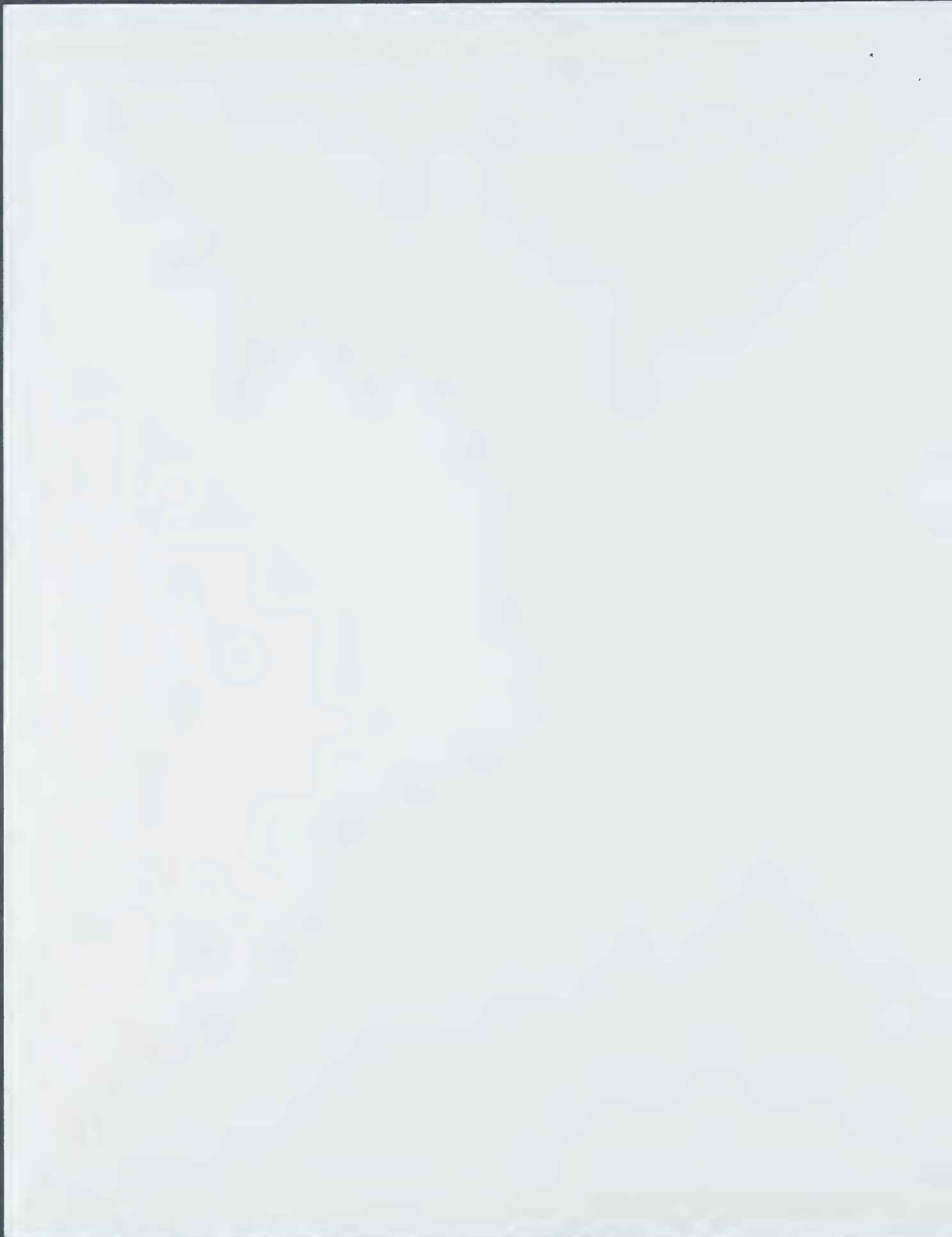
Wolff wrote:

Dear Alfred and Isabelle,

We're all looking forward to your coming this Pesach. I'd like to know if you have details of your itinerary. First of all, I want to make sure that one of us is at the airport to meet the right plane when you arrive, so please send us details of your flight.

Secondly, following our conversation of a few weeks ago in Milwaukee, I'd like to arrange a meeting for you with Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister, Rabbi Michael Melchior. As I mentioned then, Michael and I have worked together for over ten years and have begun a number of projects that we think worthy of your support. Michael is the single national figure who most embodies the kinds of values that I know you agree should become the moral basis of Israeli society. There are lots of small projects that do nice things, but if there is to be a major change in Israeli society, it will have to be led by a nationally recognized/respected leader. According to most observers today, Michael represents the best hope for doing just that. I think you'll enjoy getting to know him.

I'm not sure, however, what kind of hours the Foreign Ministry will be keeping during Chol HaMoed Pesach. That's why I'd like to know when you're available (before, during, after Pesach) so that I can arrange a mutually



convenient time for us to get together.

I'm taking the liberty of mailing you a description of some of the projects Michael and I have worked on, so that you can look them over before you arrive.

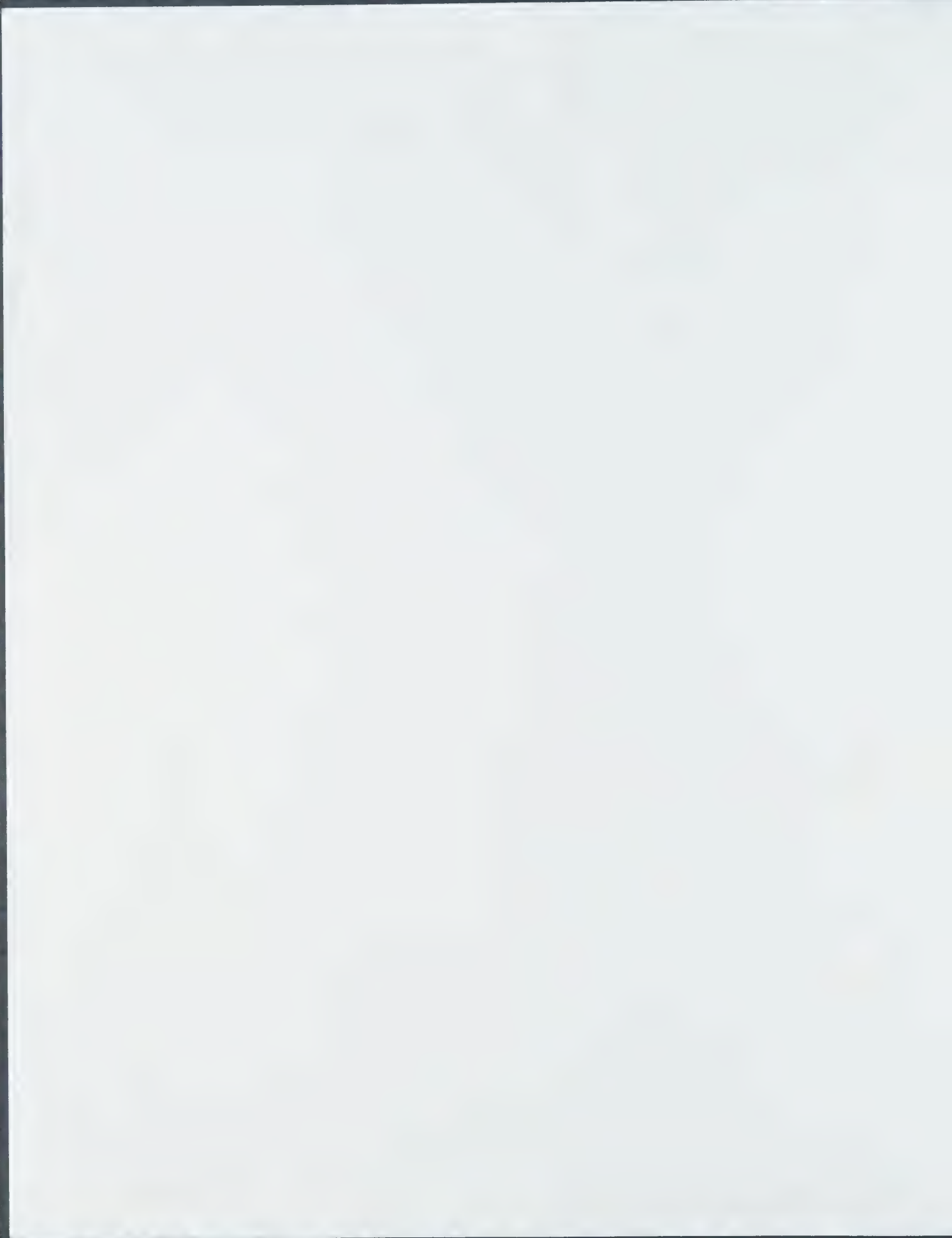
Looking forward to hearing from you,

Denny

Email: wolffjrs@netvision.net.il

26 Hizkiyahu HaMelech
93644 Jerusalem

cell: 011-972-5-238-9946
home: 011-972-2-563-0484 or 011-972-2-563-1561
office: 011-972-2-672-7580
fax: 011-972-2-672-7581



Ellen Dahrendorf

From: "Adina Shapiro" <meca@netvision.net.il>
To: "Ellen Dahrendorf" <Ellen.Dahrendorf@ukgateway.net>
Sent: 01 March 2002 09:04
Attach: MECA English Teacher Seminar in England.doc; new 4 pager les.doc
Subject: RE: Ghassan

Dear Ellen,

Thank you very much for taking this issue under your wing...the information that you received is already very helpful. I will forward it to Ghassan and hear from him how he would like to proceed (there are certain aspects here which leave the ball in his court...).

Also, I apologize for not responding yet to your previous email. Things are just so hectic over here...

I am attaching the following and please feel free to ask me for more information as this is a very initial draft:

1. a general description of the intended program
2. a general description of MECA

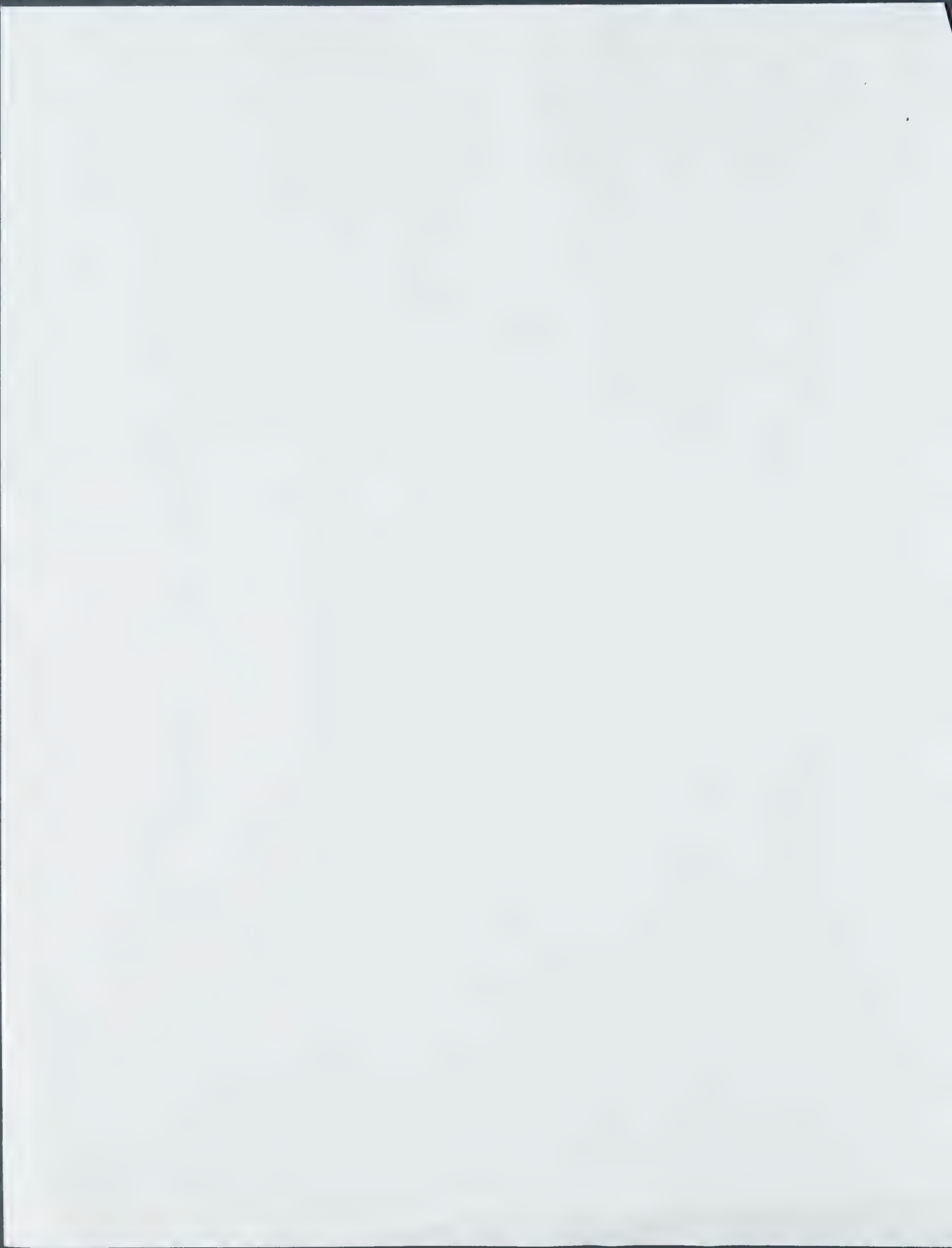
I can also send you by post mail our most recent email.

As for costs, I think that we could probably afford a maximum of 20 thousand dollars if we knew in advance that this was the necessary sum to raise.

I really appreciate your help.

all the best,
adina

X She can't have the castle this summer at the right time for her music teachers and is looking for a venue. I heard that linked world colleges in Wales might be a possibility and happen to know the German international president - he's written to ask. But I'm not too hopeful.



Ellen Dahrendorf

From: "Ellen Dahrendorf" <Ellen.Dahrendorf@ukgateway.net>
<Ellen.Dahrendorf@ukgateway.net>
To: "Adina Shapiro" <meca@netvision.net.il>
Sent: 28 February 2002 23:55
Subject: Ghassan

Dear Adina, I'm afraid it is not very good news. Actually, when you first wrote to me, I was afraid that the divorce would be a problem. But however discouraging all this sounds, I think you should encourage Ghassan to get in touch with Banna. Her e-mail is below. Also, my ACRI acquaintance who made the inquiries and wrote is Risa Zoll, e-mail: Risa@acri.org.il I don't know what else I can do???? No doubt Alfred would find a way to continue fighting. Please tell me if you have any ideas. And do let me know how Ghassan reacts.

OK-as for Ghassan's situation: I was waiting for input from our staff attorney Banna Shougry Badarne (she was an NIF fellow in DC last year) who has expertise in Muslim religious law, among other fields. Unfortunately, the advice Ghassan and Therese received to divorce was wrong, and very damaging. Given that under the "quiet transfer" policy any and all means were used by the authorities to discredit claims of residence in Jerusalem, it is easy to understand what might have led them to take this advice, however as a divorced couple they have no basis for submitting an application for family reunification. In addition, spending three consecutive nights sleeping in Ramallah could also not be used to revoke her Jerusalem ID documents. Banna confirmed that the Muslim divorce (even in the absence of a Christian divorce) is absolute.

Procedures do exist for applying for family reunification. ACRI filed a petition some years ago, that resulted in the creation of clear guidelines and a reduction of the official waiting period for the processing of the applications. In practice, these guidelines are followed to some degree, but the average waiting period is six years for full processing. To begin with, Ghassan and Therese would have to remarry; only at that stage could they begin the process. Banna would be happy to explain the procedure to them and assist them in any way (banna@acri.org.il). She is a native Arabic speaker and fluent in Hebrew and English.

In general, ACRI does not take individual cases to court. We filed a petition recently on behalf of 17 families regarding discriminatory practices in the family reunification process. The Supreme Court responded that we must divide the petition, and submit one petition per family. This deviates from the court's prior willingness to consider petitions on behalf of a group of individuals, and is a means to avoid addressing the broader policy issue. Not to mention the time that is involved in building 17 separate petitions (currently in process). We regularly give legal advice on these cases (they come by way of referral or through our hotline), but we will not be taking on any new cases until we deal with the 17 pending matters- in the ultimate hope of bringing about a broad based change in policy. Also, at a certain stage we decided that in the interest of maximizing resources, ACRI would handle family reunification cases on behalf of citizens of Israel, and that Hamoked-Center for Defense of the Individual would address cases of residents. Despite this general division of labor, please encourage Ghassan or Therese to be in touch with Banna. She is very willing to help. I only wish we had reached them months ago.

I hope the above information is helpful and that Ghassan and Therese will be willing to approach us again. Banna is serious and responsible, but since she is due to give birth in a little over a month, I would encourage them to contact her soon. They are also welcome to be in touch with me if there are any glitches in reaching Banna, or just to let me know that they have turned to us for help.

Adina, please do send Ghassan my warm regards - and keep in touch. I am not giving up, just stuck right now. Yours, Ellen

28/02/02



...and make it all seem like very good news. Actually, when you first wrote to me, I was afraid that the divorce would be a problem. But however discouraging all this sounds, I think you should encourage Ghassan to get in touch with Banna. Her e-mail is below. Also, my ACRI acquaintance who made the inquiries and wrote is Risa Zoll, e-mail: Risa@acri.org. I don't know what else I can do??? No doubt Alfred would find a way to continue fighting. Please tell me if you have any ideas. And do let me know how Ghassan reacts.

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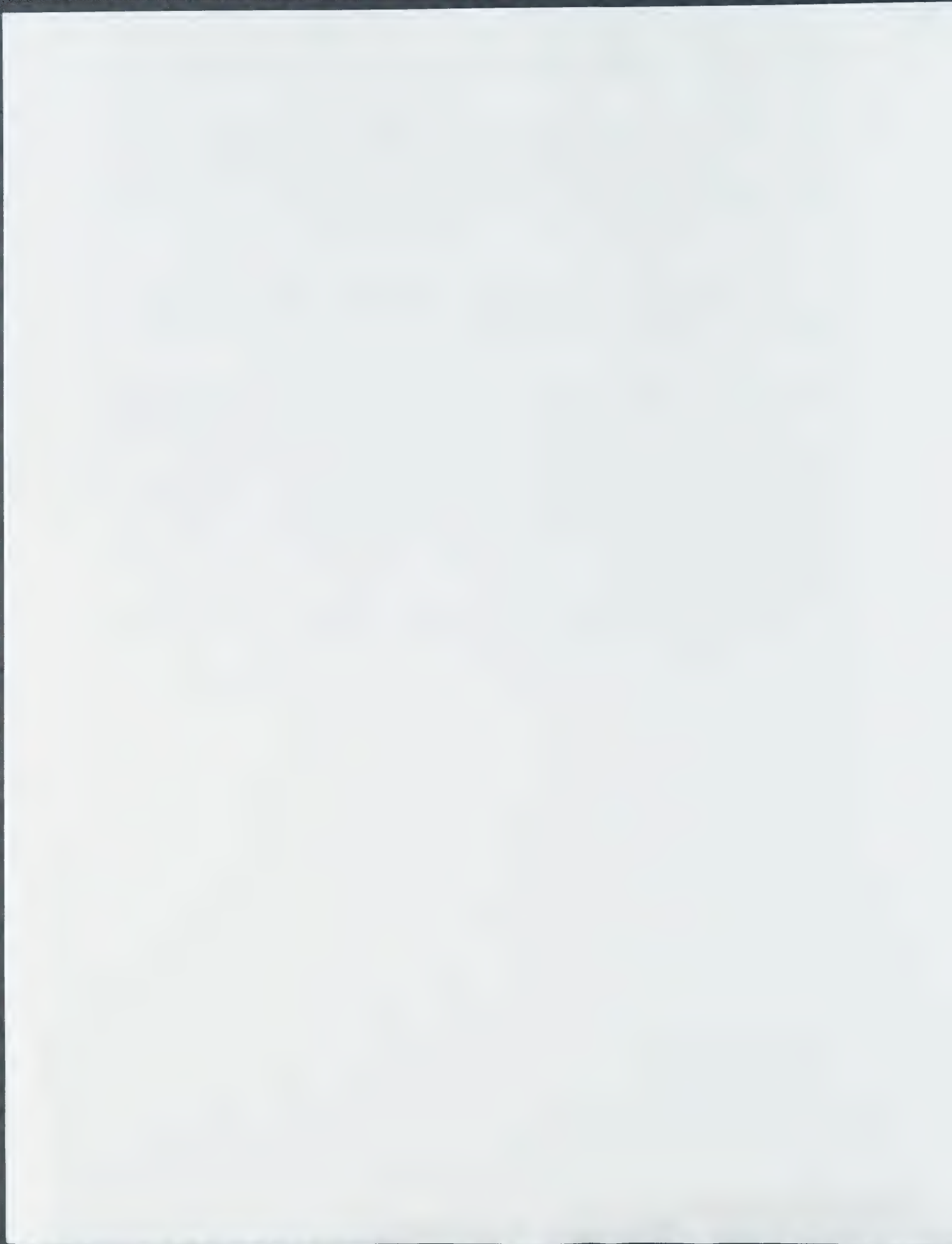
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Adna, please do send Ghassan my warm regards - and keep in touch. I am not giving up, just stuck right now. Yours, Ellen

28/02/02



February 19, 2002

(this was a note prepared for Risa Zoll of ACRI who was here speaking for us)

Ghassan Abdulla and Adina Shapiro are co-directors of the **Middle East Children's Association (MECA)**, "established in 1996 by Israeli and Palestinian educators to make the peace process a social reality for both peoples." "MECA works with leaders in the educational system, teachers and students from both Israel and the Palestinian Authority to explore tolerance, diversity, human rights, democracy and mutual respect. In December, 2000, MECA received a UNESCO award for Peace Education. I met them both in London at the home of a NIF supporter, along with Dr. Alfred Bader (of Cincinatti), who has been a serious supporter of MECA from the outset, and who recently gave the New Israel Fund \$100,000. (there is a personal connection – Adina is the granddaughter of Dr. Bader's closest friend – but he, a religious Jew, is a passionate believer in human rights for Israeli Arabs and Palestinians)

Ghassan is (was? I'm not sure) a lecturer in the Education Department at Al Quds University. He spent many years as Director of the Center for Applied Research in Education, a Palestinian organisation that develops curricula for Palestinian schools. He has been involved in the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue since the mid-1980s.

What follows is a slightly edited version of an e-mail sent to me by Adina Shapiro when I asked her for more information about Ghassan's situation. I wrote to her, rather than to him, because I feel it would be cruel to raise any hopes before it became clear that there was any possibility of effectiveness.

Ghassan Abdullah (ID 994860252 from Rammallah has been married to Therese Sabella (ID 080084775) of a Jerusalem family. Due to the closure imposed by the Israeli government at a certain point, they could not live together because he was not allowed into Jerusalem and she, if she relocated her home to Rammallah by sleeping there for several consecutive nights, would lose her Jerusalem ID which is not only valuable in terms of health insurance, etc. but also, her family has lived in Jerusalem for generations and she does not want to give up the right to live there. What Ghassan should like is to receive a Jerusalem ID for him so that he could be united with his family.

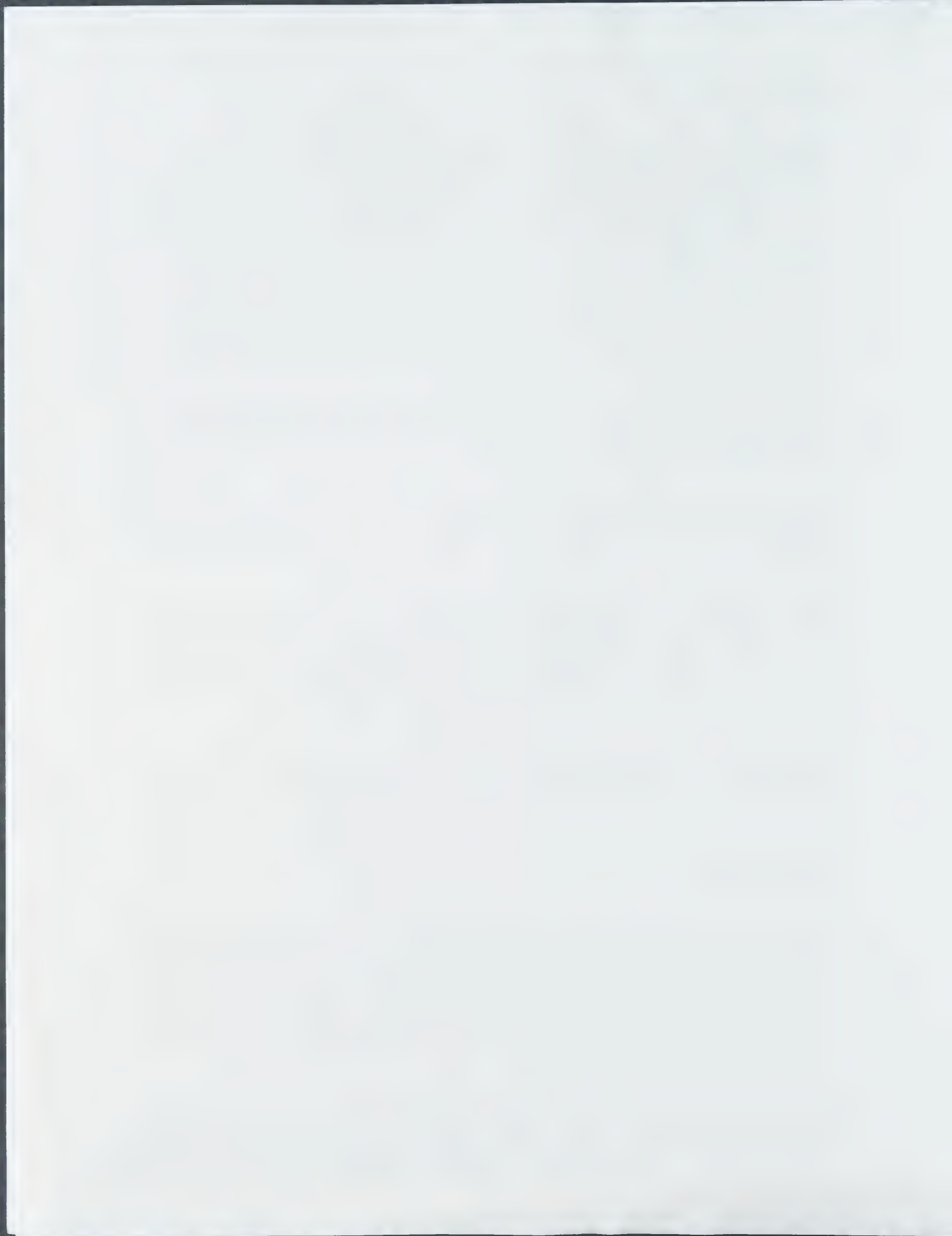
They have three children together - Usama who is studying medicine in Cairo, Karim who is in his last year of high school, and Maha who is around 12 year old. Adina Shapiro, Ghassan's co-Director of the Middle East Children's Association, assisted in getting these children Jerusalem ID's as their mother is a Jerusalemite. So now the entire family has Jerusalem ID's based on their relationship to the mother.

Ghassan and his wife were eventually divorced in the Moslem court (although not in the Christian court - Therese is Christian). There is a document from the Muslim court that the children are to stay with their mother in Jerusalem.

At a certain stage the family purchased a home in the Shuafat area which is Jerusalem by Israeli law yet inhabited mainly by Palestinians and so is a grey area...In theory by Israeli law they probably could not live there together, yet it would allow the family to live their without losing their Jerusalem ID and Ghassan would have much easier access to there. (Especially considering that through his MECA work he was receiving 3 month permits to stay in Israel for work purposes (although these still required him to return to Rammallah every night.) As the situation worsened this purchase is not used at all because of all of the checkpoints and the tighter security checks. In any case it is not really a permanent solution although it does testify to the family's commitment to staying together in the Jerusalem area.

What Ghassan would like is to receive a Jerusalem ID under the provisions of "family reunion".

I have been told the following: that this is a complicated procedure which must be done through the Israeli ministry of Interior and that here is a lot of Israeli political hesitation because of the demographics issue in general –and particularly in Jerusalem. The problem is widespread however, and also has been taken advantage of by some Palestinians who seek the benefits of the State of Israel. For these reasons



there were never any clear regulations set and the system was abused by both sides where many ID's were bought through bribery and extortion without any relevance to the actual case at hand. About 4-5 years ago the Government cracked down on the Ministry of Interior, investigating many of the irregularities and since then, in addition to the political sensitivities, the matter of issuing a Jerusalem ID has become highly sensitive if not totally impossible. (Recently Israeli minister Tarif had to resign when he was accused of accepting a bribe in facilitating the issuing of a Jerusalem ID for a Palestinian).

In short Ghassan and his family are really victims of the system and the Situation (and I realise, not the only ones.) **Can anything done?**

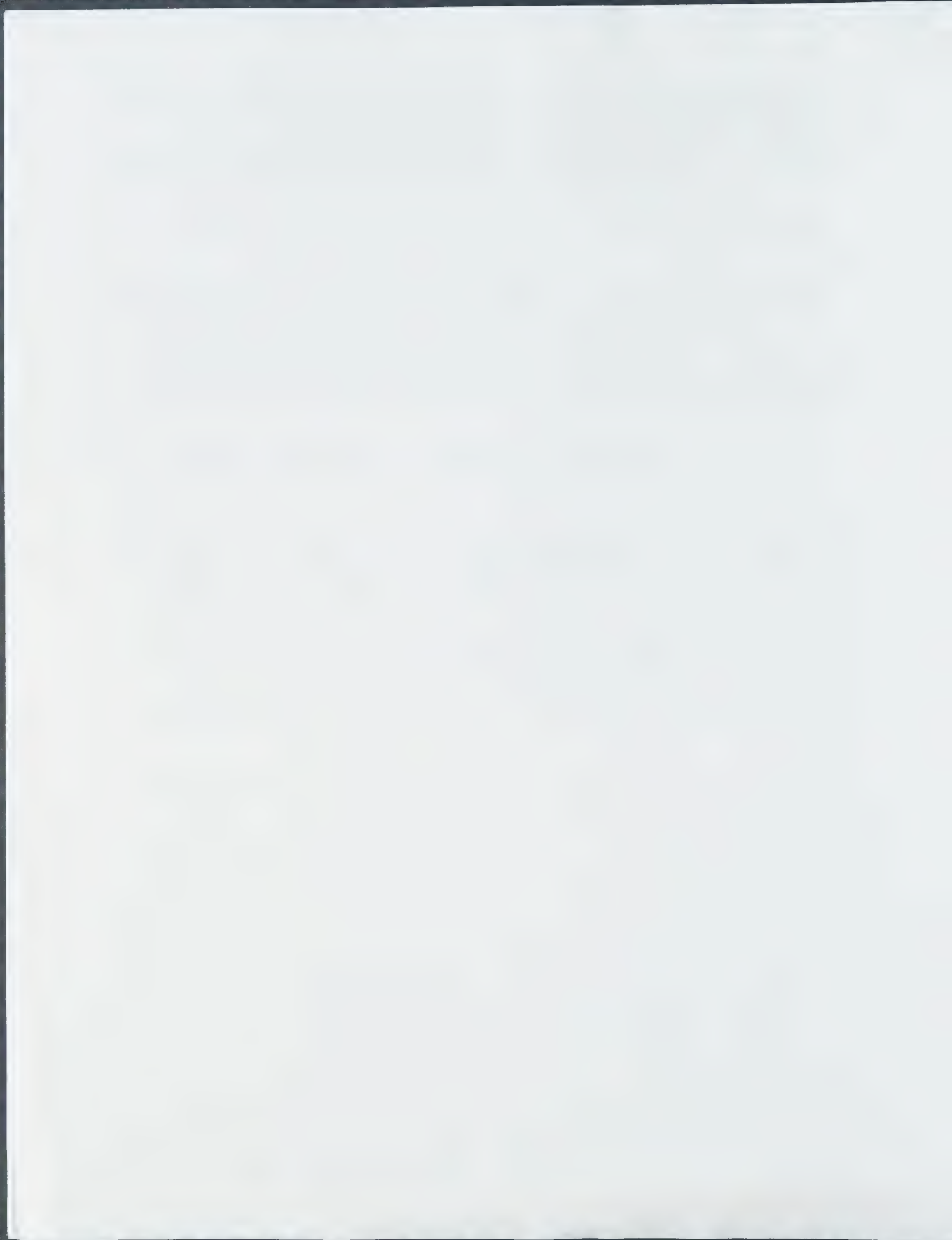
Adina thinks that to a certain extent it is a political issue and perhaps for that reason, Ghassan and his friends by now feel that the Human Rights organisations do not want to or are not able to help very much. At this point Ghassan is apparently very hesitant to turn to them because he fears being used to promote a cause rather than as a human being with a problem that needs to be solved. Adina wrote to me that they do have someone on the MECA staff from the education department at ACRI and they did discuss the issue but she "did not make a dent". She wonders, could an unofficial approach from someone on the NIF board push ACRI into being more active? But she fears that Ghassan's instinct may be correct, and that they or other similar organisations, do not have sufficient political clout and have many more similar requests that they are dealing with.

Obviously there would be sensitivity about pushing one case over another, but perhaps the "card" in Ghassan's case may be that he has long been involved in peace activities and he has some prominent friends who are more than willing to vouch for him...

One more thing – I do remember the evening when I met Adina and Ghassan – he told a terrible story about his wife's encounter with Israeli official who crudely attacked her for marrying a Palestinian – why couldn't she find someone in Jerusalem? – and that she was virtually told that her only chance of regaining her Jerusalem residence permit would be if she got a divorce.

If you get a chance to glance at this before you leave, my phone number is 7435-5076, or when you get home, e-mail: Ellen.Dahrendorf@ukgateway.net

Risa, you have been so wonderful here, but I am going to write to you about that separately.



Subject: Re: Visit
From: Adina Shapiro <adinashapiro@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, 18 Mar 2002 11:08:41 -0800 (PST)
To: Alfred Bader Fine Arts <baderfa@execpc.com>

Dear Alfred,

Welcome home. I am sorry that i missed you in Milwaukee but i am glad that we will soon have the opportunity to met here. I actually just returned from NYC and should be leaving for Germany tommorow but we are having a lot of difficulties getting security clearance so i am doubtful if we will really be able to take off.

As for Ghassan's issue, i think it is best that you and I discuss the matter face to face. I am very moved by your refering to me ingeriting my grandfathers legal genes and yet, i believe there is more to this story than the legal aspects, especially when it comes to hearsay statements such as the one which you qouted below. In short, as this is a family matter, the entire complexity must be weighed, and i think it is best if you and i do it in person rather than in writing.

I am sorry to hear about the Rembrandt still in search of a home, however, somewhat glad that i may still have the oppertunity to visit it in NY the next time that i am there.

All the best and looking forward to seeing you. Please send my best to Isabel.

Adina

Alfred Bader Fine Arts <baderfa@execpc.com> wrote:

Dear Adina,

Of course Isabel and I are very much looking forward to seeing you in Jerusalem next week.

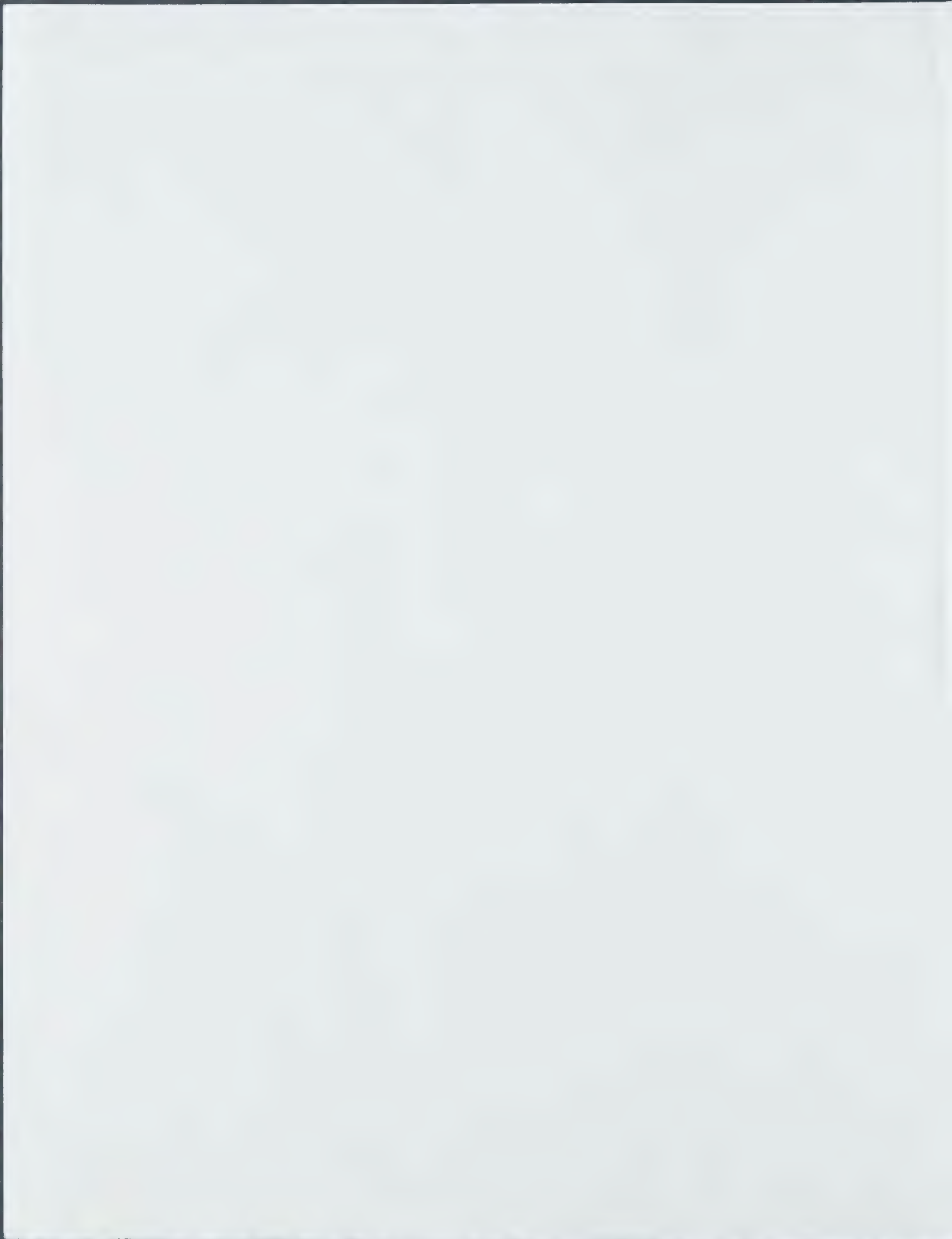
Lady Ellen Dahrendorf has shared with me her e-mail correspondence with you regarding Dr. Ghassan, whom I look forward to meeting.

What can be done to help him and his wife to be united? The key paragraph in Lady Dahrendorf's e-mail is the one about Dr. Ghassan telling "the terrible story about his wife's encounter with Israeli official who crudely attacked her for marrying a Palestinian - why couldn't she find someone in Jerusalem?- and that she was virtually told that the only chance she had of regaining her Jerusalem residence permit would be if she got a divorce ."

Clearly they made a mistake to divorce but under such a horrible threat.

You must be close to having your law degree - you certainly have your grandfather's genes. What can be done to help?

The Rembrandt is returning to Otto Naumann's gallery next week. It was the star of the Maastricht fair but of course there are not too many people who have \$40 million to spend on a painting, even when that is a magnificent Rembrandt. Anyway, when next you are in New



Dear Adina,

Thank you for your long e-mail of April 5th. Passover has delayed my responding and your father telling me that you are now in Geneva has not lit a fire under me to respond quickly.

By air mail I am sending you the latest FJC report showing their disbursements between January 1, 2004 and March 31, 2004. They disbursed \$165,100, leaving a balance of \$186,051.46.

When you receive the hard copy of this statement please check it and send me confirmation that it is correct.

With this large balance still in the account I presume that you are in no great hurry to receive the additional \$100,000 which I promised you for this year. Please let me know when I should send it to the FJC.

This should be quite separate from the money that I will send to Queen's University if you decide to meet again at Herstmonceux Castle. There I will pay as I did last year except that I would not like to pay the exorbitant expenses for the few Kosher meals. Surely it would be much better for that food to be carried there, as you suggested last year.

Now to turn to the question uppermost in my mind and the question which Marvin would certainly be asking you if he were still with us, namely, when will you be a lawyer under Israeli law? In your e-mail you wrote that you had one more oral presentation to give and that for the date you are at the mercy of the university's bureaucracy.

I understand of course that once you have received your degree you will then have to proceed with an internship. I am asking for the date when you have become a lawyer, not for the date when you will begin and end that internship.

You will recall that last year I told you that I did not want to make further financial contributions until you have your law degree. These financial contributions are quite apart from my paying for MECA's expenses at Herstmonceux Castle. Also, because I promised you the \$100,000 this year, I will make that contribution but after that none further (except for expenses at Herstmonceux Castle) until you have your law degree.

Adina, please don't mind that I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this e-mail to your father and I will then telephone him next week to discuss a number of matters related to Bader & Klitsner Enterprises, but also your finishing your legal studies.

With fond regards as always,
Alfred

Adina Shapiro wrote:

Dear Alfred,

Following our conversation, I just wanted to update you re: our meetings from last week.

Last week we first held two meetings for all of our teachers. These meetings were held separately: one in Rammallah and one in Tel Aviv. During these meetings the teachers reconfirmed their commitment to



proceed in our joint educational endeavors.

This past Thursday and Friday we gathered all of our facilitators and learning companions who lead the groups of teachers. All in all there are 30 facilitators, 6 learning companions and 8 members of staff - equally divided between Israelis and Palestinians. These people come from all over geographically. You may be following the news here and understanding the significant difficulties in movement (both psychologically and physically). All of these difficulties were heightened since the killing of Ahmad Yassin 10 days ago. I am still amazed to report that we had 100% attendance of everyone. This was a very encouraging sign for all of us. Some of the Palestinians, who are older people came after walking by foot for hours...others left their homes at 4:00 or 5:00 AM in order to arrive. We sat for two days reviewing the situation, how it affects us and how we may proceed. The meetings were sponsored by the Adenauer Foundation who himself was encouraged and will hopefully help support our future steps. I am therefore very confident in saying that we do plan to continue and that we seem to have the buy in of both the Palestinian and Israeli educators with whom we work in order to do so.

Last week I spoke with you about our financial difficulties and asked you for 100,000 USD. In light of our commitment to proceed this would indeed be very useful. Meanwhile, however, we have also reconsidered our original inclination not to bring the facilitators abroad for a seminar at Herstmenceux. We are thinking about adding this to our programs because of the growing difficulties in meeting here. I just sent them an email and am awaiting their response. I assume there is a good chance that the castle is already booked for the dates which we have requested so this is only a slim possibility...

I wanted to update you about this possibility before you transferred the 100,000 because I understand that you may want to support an event at the castle. For us, this is a separate and additional program, and having the seminar at herctmencueux would require additional funds than the ongoing budget for which I initially approached you. That said, I do not want to mislead you into giving us funds now and then unintentionally feeling that you would add more in the future. I am therefore telling you our intentions up front and would definitely understand should you choose to reconsider.

I know I am also required to update you about my law school when making such a request. The bottom line is that I am technically finished with the law school which makes me eligible to proceed with internship should I so choose. (Due to my other activities and commitments, I will not begin at least until the end of this year...). Meanwhile, I am still required to give one more oral presentation and am awaiting the date for this which is to be set by the University. This depends on their internal bureaucracy, but as I mentioned, does not hold me back from proceeding in a potential legal career...

On another note, I hope this note finds you, Isabel and the kids well. I wanted to wish you all a happy Pesach. Ghassan also sends his regards.

Hag Sameach,
Adina

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