

Vatican
November 19, 1964

Mr. Herman Shumlin
11 East 48th Street
New York 17, New York

Dear Mr. Shumlin:

Thank you for your note of November 13th in which you enclosed your correspondence with Pope Paul. I did not, of course, expect that you would get an answer, and I think that the silence of the Vatican on this documentary is evidence of the present Pope's attitude towards the Jews and speaks volumes more than the "absolution" we are now to receive from the Church.

I think it was the happiest possible coincidence that this morning's Times carried, in the same issue with the new Vatican draft on the Jews, this resounding confirmation of what the "Deputy" has been preaching -- and please excuse the verb, I think that it is most appropriate -- against all the vociferous opposition of both Catholics and some of our weak fellow-Jews.

Personally I think that the production of the "Deputy" in this country forms an integral and significant part of Jewish history, and now that the show is to close on Broadway, I would urge you to write down your memoirs of all the trials and tribulations that had to be undergone both before and during the staging of this show. Whether or not all names should be mentioned publicly is a matter for serious discussion -- but certainly there should be records which may some day prove of major interest to historians.

Once again, it was good seeing you those several Wednesday nights at my Talmud class and I do have the effrontery to mention my hope that I shall see you again at similar occasions.

Cordially yours,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

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CATHOLIC WEEKLY CALLS FOR STRONG VATICAN STAND ON JEWISH ISSUE

NEW YORK, Oct. 1. (JTA) -- The Commonweal, liberal Catholic lay-edited weekly, asserted today that, if Roman Catholicism was "serious about erasing Christian anti-Semitism," the Ecumenical Council would have to take a stronger stand on relations with the Jewish people than the revised version of the draft declaration on which debate was concluded at the Vatican this week.

The weekly, in its current issue, criticized "the needless skirting of the deicide issue" in the revised draft and the emphasis on "reunion" of Jews with Christianity. The Commonweal declared that such elements were "as offensive to Jews as they should be to understanding Catholics."

Asserting that the Church could not "settle for the mild form of lip service now before the Council," the weekly said that "the needs of diplomacy and of the political sensitivities of the Arab governments must not be granted the sort of weight that brings a parliamentary compromise."

Other criticisms of the debated Vatican document were voiced by the Catholic Reporter, organ of the Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese; and the Catholic Universe Bulletin of Cleveland, the central Diocesan newspaper in that city. Both criticized the new version, which has been strongly opposed by Jewish leaders, as well as by most American cardinals and archbishops in the Council debate in Rome.

Church Has No 'Hidden' Aim to Convert Jews, Says Belgian Cardinal

ANTWERP, Oct. 1. (JTA) -- The Catholic Church has no "hidden intentions" to force the Jewish people into conversion to Christianity, Cardinal Suenes, primate of Belgium, declared here today. In a message to the Belgisch Israelitisch Weekblad, on the occasion of the Flemish-language paper's 10th anniversary, Cardinal Suenes discussed the draft declaration on relations with Jews, debated by the Ecumenical Council in the Vatican this week, and stated that the time had come for a "loyal dialogue" between Christians and Jews.

Such dialogue, he said, "does not at all mean a hidden intention to bring Jews to conversion to Catholicism. Faith exists only if it is a free, personal decision." Citing from the Psalms, the cardinal expressed his hope that, from now on, "we all--Jews and Christians--will be able to say in all sincerity 'See how good it is, how sweet it is, to live like brothers all together.'"

'THE DEPUTY,' OPPOSED BY SOME CATHOLICS, CANCELS ROAD TOUR

NEW YORK, Oct. 1. (JTA) -- A planned nationwide tour for "The Deputy," the controversial play on the alleged silence by Pope Pius XII in the face of the Nazi slaughter of European Jewry, has been canceled, Producer Herman Shumlin said today. One reason was that theaters in other cities refused to accept engagements and another that not enough prospective producers offered subscription arrangements, he said.

The play opened on Broadway last February 26. Mr. Shumlin said that theaters in Cleveland, Baltimore, Minneapolis, St. Paul and Milwaukee had refused to book it. He added that the manager of the Cleveland theater had told him that objections had been raised by "those representing the Catholic diocese." Other managers refused to give reasons, he said.

The Broadway version is doing well, he added, though it must leave its present theater on November 28 because of a prior commitment by the theater for another attraction then. He indicated he expected to find another theater for performances in Manhattan after that date.

NEW HISTADRUT YOUTH CENTER AT HAIFA NAMED AFTER PHILADELPHIANS

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 1. (JTA) -- A new youth center at Haifa, to be named after Pauline and Samuel Weinrott, of this city, will be established in Haifa under the auspices of Histadrut, the Israel labor federation, it was announced here.

The announcement culminated a dinner last night attended by some 500 civic and business leaders in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Weinrott. The center was conceived last summer during Mr. Weinrott's first visit to Israel as a member of a delegation of Philadelphia business leaders who studied the Histadrut welfare programs. Mr. Weinrott is a banker here.

RABBI JACOB SONDERLING, HERZL CO-WORKER, DEAD ON COAST AT 85

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 1. (JTA) -- Rabbi Jacob Sonderling, prominent educator and veteran Zionist, died here yesterday of a heart attack at the age of 85. He was one of the first co-workers of Theodor Herzl, the father of political Zionism.

Born in Germany, Rabbi Sonderling was ordained there and was one of the leading Zionists in that country. He came to the United States in 1923 and after serving in pulpits in various parts of the country, was spiritual leader of the Fairfax Temple here. He also served for a number of years as director of the Los Angeles Jewish Community Council. At the time of his death, he was professor of Jewish thought and homiletics at the California school of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.