

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS STEERING COMMITTEE

Latin American Visit
July 2006

Mid-year Report of the Secretary General

1. General Summary of WJC Mission Progress – This is a year of exponential growth and success for the World Jewish Congress as it pursues its mission “more strongly than ever.” In every area the WJC has advanced the cause of world Jewry and support for individual Jewish communities. Each of the six defined areas of the WJC mission -- fostering inter-religious dialogue, combating anti-Semitism, advancing Holocaust remembrance and restitution, approaching the Iranian threat, working for and with small Jewish communities, and growing and including the future generation of Jewish leaders -- the WJC leads the Jewish world. In fact in many of these efforts, the WJC leads the world at large and the WJC is poised to continue its growth “more strongly than ever.”

- a. Policy Council –

The first official meeting of the WJC Policy Council was a significant demonstration of the WJC’s strength and ability to serve as the diplomatic arm of the Jewish people. The WJC showed that listening is as important as doing and there was value on gaining insight and direction from diplomatic leaders with whom the WJC has previous worked.

The Policy Council of the World Jewish Congress, Chaired by Israel Singer, met in Berlin, Germany on June 27 and 28 to discuss current issues of importance to Jewish Communities around the world.

In addition to the many members of the WJC Executive Committee that participated, the meeting was attended by, among others, former German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, former Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, former Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth, former European Parliament President Simone

Veil, and former Archbishop of Paris Jean-Marie Cardinal Lustiger.

Topics discussed included the threat posed by the current Iranian regime; seeking a just and lasting peace to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; building on the successful dialogue between Jews and Christians and extending the inter-religious dialogue to other faiths, particularly Islam; the recent upsurge in anti-Semitic acts worldwide; and coordination among the various restitution funds and foundations that have been established in many European countries.

The Policy Council, drawing on the collective experience and expertise of those present, will make recommendations to the WJC Governing bodies as to how to best to approach these specific issues in order to fulfill its mission of diplomatic and political representation of Jewish communities throughout the world.

On the eve of the Policy Council Meeting, the WJC hosted a dinner honoring the work of the *Remembrance, Responsibility & Future* Foundation, attended by representatives of the German government, Bundestag, diplomatic corps, journalists and the Jewish community of Germany.

The Policy Council meeting was widely covered in international media and the WJC was roundly hailed for its initiative.

For more information, please go to www.worldjewishcongress.org

- b. YPDC – The Young Professionals Diplomatic Corp of the World Jewish Congress was created to support the decision by the Steering Committee to make building and incorporating the next generation of Jewish leaders into its activities.
 - i. Governing Board – The 25 top candidates of the WJC YPDC were flown to Jerusalem in early February for seminars and participation in the WJC’s Governing Board meetings. The program, organized by WJC Director of Future Generations, Peleg Reshef, allowed the young professionals to have an inside view of the major issues

confronting Jewish life and to discuss among themselves and with WJC leaders issues they face and solutions to problems of world Jewry. The next phase of development of the YPDC, which has already begun, is to incorporate YPDC participants in WJC and Regional activities where they will work in the actual political, diplomatic and dialogue activities that are the core mission of the WJC.

- ii. New Director – Adam Koffler of Sun Valley, Idaho joined the World Jewish Congress as Director of the Young Professional Diplomatic Corps several months ago. Adam, a volunteer and member of the WJC Foundation Board of Directors, will work hand-in-hand with Peleg Rashef, the WJC’s Director of Future Generation Activities.
- iii. Young Diplomats in Geneva – Ten members of the WJC Young Professional Diplomatic Corps, drawn from communities around the world, attended the historic 29th International Conference of the Red Cross and the opening session of the new UN Human Rights Council, both in Geneva.

Organized by YPDC Director Adam Koffler, Future Generations Director Peleg Reshef and International Organizations Director Shai Franklin, the YPDC participants played an instrumental role in outreach to government delegations and national societies at the Red Cross meeting in Geneva, Switzerland in June. The WJC YPDC delegation helped achieve the long-sought admission of Israel’s Magen David Adom (MDA) into the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The WJC and its YPDC worked in close consultation with MDA leaders Uri Geller and Dr. Noam Yifrach and the American Red Cross, as well as with Israeli and US diplomats on the scene. The Human Rights Council sessions offered an opportunity to meet with a number of senior officials from the UN and member states, including many ambassadors and human rights specialists.

In a six-hour session at the end of the week in Geneva, the YPDC participants discussed lessons learned and ideas for upcoming activities with WJC Secretary General Stephen E. Herbits.

- iv. Future Development – The Geneva program demonstrates the WJC’s commitment to trusting and engaging young activists today, as the leaders they are and tapping the tremendous potential of such a diverse group to practically impact international diplomacy.

The WJC looks to expand the role of the YPDC and increase the number of participants. The WJC intends to build on past successes with this group and hold regional training sessions, including one taking place this week in Buenos Aires in conjunction with our joint WJC Steering Committee and Latin American Jewish Congress meeting.

- c. WJC Headquarters Update – To increase communications with communities, keep them apprised of activities and to seek feedback from them concerning the work of the WJC, we have launched a bi-weekly internal newsletter, *Headquarters Update*. This update has been positively received by member communities and WJC leaders. It is compiled in the WJC New York Headquarters and distributed by the WJC Brussels office. Beginning with the issue this week, *Headquarters Update* will be published in both English and Spanish.
- d. Iran Update – In February, the WJC Governing Board put the Iranian threat on the WJC’s agenda. A year ago, no one could have expected that we would be forced to concentrate so much on this issue, but few issues today pose such a great challenge for the Jewish people as does the Iranian regime. Their rhetoric, active support and engagement in terrorism, and advancing their nuclear program make the Iranian regime a threat like no other today. As part of our program of action, the WJC publishes *Iran Update*, a bi-weekly newsletter of news, analysis and commentary on the Iranian threat and measures taken to combat it. A highlight of the publication is the section which focuses on the activities of the Jewish communities of the world and their

efforts to combat the Iranian threat. This is important both to inform communities about what is being done and to coordinate amongst those efforts. Accordingly, the next and subsequent issues will be published in both English and Spanish.

The WJC continues to conduct diplomatic meetings on Iran, study the subject, gain critical knowledge and information and is planning a more aggressive strategy for dealing with the challenge.

- e. Inter-religious Activities – Through the outstanding leadership of Israel Singer, the World Jewish Congress remains in the forefront of advancing dialogues, trialogues, and multi-logues with religious leaders around the world. Israel Singer and the WJC remain in the forefront of the Jewish dialogue with the Catholic and other Churches. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Israel Singer, our nascent program of dialogue with the Muslim religion has been broadly recognized. Based upon the principles of fostering mutual respect and understanding through dialogue, the World Jewish Congress Inter-religious program continues to thrive. Israel Singer also serves as the Chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Inter-religious Consultations, an umbrella organization of major Jewish organizations and Jewish religious streams in dialogue with other religious groups. IJCIC is the official Jewish partner in dialogue with the Vatican. In May 2006 Israel Singer addressed 300 rabbis from over 30 European countries meeting in London at the jubilee convention of the Conference of European Rabbis. Singer urged the conference to promote inter-religious dialogue with Muslims and Christians, noting that “authentic Jewish dialogue demands authentic Jewish content. Only rabbis can provide this necessary Jewish content.”
 - i. Muslim Cartoons – At its February 2006 meeting in Jerusalem, the WJC Governing Board passed a resolution calling on newspapers to refrain from offending Muslims or other religious groups. This action came as WJC President Edgar M. Bronfman wrote a widely publicized op-ed calling for respect of all religions.

- ii. Muslim Dialogue – In addition to private meetings with individual Muslim leaders, the World Jewish Congress has participated in several important meetings with Muslim religious leaders.
1. World Congress of Imams and Rabbis – Israel Singer, the Chairman of the Policy Council, attended the World Congress of Imams and Rabbis held in Seville, Spain and urged moderate Muslim and Jewish leaders to stand up against the extremists within their own ranks and to create a network of mutual trust. Singer also said moderate religious leaders should not permit their faith to be hijacked by a minority of extremists, or to be used as justification for violence and aggressive politics.
 2. Moscow Meeting – Over a hundred senior religious leaders from more than 40 countries, representing all major faiths in the world, met in Moscow to discuss the role of religion in society, the protection of moral values and the fight against terrorism and extremism. Israel Singer participated in the conference and said that the meeting was a great step forward for humanity.
 3. Cairo Meeting – Oasis, a Venice-based international center founded by Cardinal Angelo Scola, Patriarch of Venice, organized a conference of its scientific committee titled “On Fundamental Rights and Democracy.” Since it was founded, Oasis has become a place for high-level inter-religious dialogue between Christians and Muslims. On this occasion and for the first time, the Jewish community was invited to attend in the person of Chairman of the WJC Policy Council Israel Singer. The conference focused on issues of human rights and democracy in the western and Islamic traditions, in the frame of tensions and questions between the West and Islam. The University of Al-Azhar, the oldest Islamic academic institution collaborated on holding the conference.

4. Glocal Forum – Israel Singer attended a meeting of the Glocal Forum in Ankara Turkey. The international meeting of mayors included a session on inter-religious dialogue at which Singer participated together with Muslim and Catholic religious leaders. The Forum was also conducive to establishing and advancing contacts with various Muslim and Arab leaders. David Kimche, Chair of the WJC’s Israel Council on Foreign Relations, is a leader of the Glocal Forum.
- iii. Catholic Church – The World Jewish Congress remains at the forefront of dialogue with the Catholic Church.
1. Vatican Relations – As Chairman of IJCIC, Israel Singer maintains a close relationship with the Vatican. In preparation for this year’s meeting of the Jewish – Catholic International Liaison Committee (ILC), Israel Singer and WJC officials have held several meetings with Vatican officials. The ILC meeting in Capetown, South Africa will convene under a theme of the religious imperatives of providing healthcare. The meeting will also discuss conducting a joint initiative in the field of healthcare.
 2. Israel Singer and other WJC officials also met recently with Cardinal Angelo Scola, Patriarch of Venice, among others, to advance relations and prepare several joint initiatives and programs.
 3. Israel Singer, participated at an International Prayer for Peace event under the sponsorship of the Community of Sant’Egidio, Archdiocese of Washington, Georgetown University and Catholic University of America. Israel Singer addressed the plenary session on *Pluralism and Democracy from a Jewish Perspective*.

4. The WJC continues its successful program of bringing Catholic clergy to New York to encounter Judaism. At the most recent session, 30 Catholic clerics experienced Judaism as it lives today in a free and open society. The group – Cardinals, Bishops and Priests from Europe and Latin America – visited Yeshivot and Jewish educational institutions, and met with rabbis and rabbinic students. The group held discussions on religion in modern society and on the conflicts between competing values in a secular world, among other subjects. The Jewish and Catholic leaders also discussed anti-Semitism and expansion of Jewish-Catholic relations to extend to moderate Muslims as well.

iv. Greek Orthodox

1. In January 2006, Israel Singer met with Andrew Athens, President of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad and with Father Alex, of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in New York, for discussions on advancing relations between the Jewish people and the Greek Orthodox. The WJC held discussions with Metropolitan Theophilus, Patriarch of Jerusalem to discuss the positive change in position of the Orthodox Church in Israel. Among the subjects discussed were Church teachings with regard to the Patristic Fathers, which in the past were seen as anti-Semitic.
2. The WJC also met with representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church to build a relationship with each of the Orthodox Churches. In May, Stephen E. Herbits, Matthew Bronfman, Israel Singer, Euro-Asian Jewish Congress President Alexander Machkevitch, and Secretary General Michael Chlenov met with the Director of External Affairs of the Russian Orthodox Church, Arch-Priest Vsevolod Chaplin, at the department's Moscow headquarters.

- v. World Council of Churches – An ongoing issue remains relations with the WCC. The left-wing Protestant Churches have continued to be critical of Israel. The WJC has been in contact with WCC Secretary General Samuel Kobia and has reason to believe that the Council has mitigated some of the negative attitudes towards Israel. There have been some positive developments. A case in point is a WCC meeting held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, attended by WJC and IJCIC representatives. Rabbi Henry Sobel opened the meeting and presented the WJC position on the negative statements on Israel issued by the WCC in recent months. The WCC did not issue an anti-Israel resolution at the conference. However, the issue remains an open one, requiring further discussion

- f. Holocaust Restitution – The World Jewish Congress through Israel Singer continues to lead the battle to achieve a small measure of justice for Holocaust survivors, victims and heirs.
 - i. Claims Conference – As the result of negotiations led by Claims Conference President Israel Singer, the Conference Negotiating Committee reached an historic breakthrough through which Holocaust victims from North Africa, Jews imprisoned in internment camps in Tunisia by the Nazis may be eligible to receive ongoing German compensation payments. Prisoners of Gabes, Marcia-Plage, and Tniet-Agarev may now receive pension payments from the Claims Conference Article 2 Fund. For the first time, Jewish women and children in Tunisia will be eligible for Article 2 payments.

The Claims Conference also obtained Article 2 payments for 4,000 new claimants from certain Western European countries. This will result in an 8 percent increase in the number of people receiving Article 2 payments, which is currently 49,000, and an additional 15 million Euros being paid annually.

Every year, the Claims Conference meets with German officials to obtain changes in compensation programs to

benefit more Jewish victims of Nazism. These ongoing talks have enabled thousands of additional people to receive these payments and ensured that the experiences of Nazi victims are recognized.

- ii. Agudath Israel Recognition – At its 84th annual dinner, the Haredi Jewish communal organization Agudath Israel of America (Agudah) honored WJC Policy Council Chairman Israel Singer with its *Elimelech Tress* Award for his achievements in Holocaust restitution and in countering Holocaust revisionism. The dinner was attended by more than 1,500 supporters of Agudah and was addressed by the President of the Council of Torah Sages, Rabbi Yaakov Perlow. Singer was introduced by a video message from New York State Governor George Pataki, who praised Singer as “my partner,” in accomplishments on behalf of the Jewish people.
- iii. In recent months, Israel Singer, working with the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and the World Jewish Restitution Organization has concentrated on obtaining additional funds for home healthcare services for elderly survivors. Progress in this campaign was made only recently when Israel Singer led a delegation of the Claims Conference Negotiating Committee to Berlin to continue conversations on the necessity of home healthcare coverage for Holocaust survivors.
- iv. Under the direction of WJC President Edgar M. Bronfman, Israel Singer petitioned the German Government to ensure the opening of the world's largest archive about Nazi Germany, the International Tracing Service (ITS) in Bad Arolsen. Recently, the critical steps necessary were taken and the archive will soon be opened to historians who will for the first time gain access to the files, which contain personal details on more than 17 million people who went through the concentration camp and slave labor system. The decision was taken at a meeting of diplomats from the eleven countries that are signatories to the convention governing the ITS. The WJC actively negotiated for the

opening of the archive, which is managed by the International Committee of the Red Cross and financed by the German government.

- v. EJC President Besnainou and Policy Council Chairman Israel Singer met with Romanian Government officials and raised, amongst other items, the matter of restitution of Jewish property seized during and after World War II.
- g. Claims Conference – Israel Singer was reelected president of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany in an unanimous vote at the Board’s annual meeting.

Reacting to the news of the unanimous vote, Edgar M. Bronfman, President of the World Jewish Congress said “Israel Singer’s re-election as President of the Claims Conference is a testament to his record of success and central leadership in ongoing negotiations. Israel Singer is a tireless advocate of moral justice for Holocaust survivors, and his leadership is needed now more than ever to ensure that every survivor can live in dignity.”

Roman Kent, President of the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors, added, “There is no better person for this position than Israel Singer. He has done so much for the Jewish people and indeed all mankind.”

Noach Flug, President of the Holocaust Survivors in Israel, said, “Holocaust survivors around the world are very glad that Israel Singer has been re-elected. In the coming years, we know Israel Singer will continue his important work on behalf of Holocaust survivors with the same energy and success as in the past. Israel Singer has contributed an immeasurable degree to Holocaust survivors around the world and we are grateful.”

Stephen E. Herbits, Secretary General of the WJC who served with Mr. Bronfman during the latter’s role as Chairman of the President’s Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States under President Clinton, said, “We are indeed thankful that Israel Singer will continue in his role at the Claims Conference, providing the continuity of the important relationship of the World

Jewish Congress in negotiating with governments and other institutions for justice and restitution for Holocaust victims.”

2. General Summary of WJC Governance, Structure and Operations Progress

- a. WJC – The World Jewish Congress continues to advance the efforts undertaken by President Edgar M. Bronfman and the Steering Committee in August 2004. Nearly two years later, the WJC has concretized its operations and procedures, improved its administration, enhanced its administrative, policy and support, and is structurally and politically stronger than ever.
 - i. Governing Board – The WJC Governing Board convened last at a meeting in February in Jerusalem. The largest governing authority meeting between Plenary Assemblies, the Governing Board continues to be called, convened, and managed in accordance with the WJC’s policies and procedures, maintaining the highest standards of transparency and governance. The last Governing Board meeting reviewed critical WJC policy initiatives, reviewed budgets, received reports from the WJC Foundation and took action on several critical fronts. The Governing Board has met three times since the creation of the Steering Committee and will likely meet one more time this year, keeping to the management goal of meeting twice each year.
 - ii. Steering Committee – President Edgar M. Bronfman created the Steering Committee in August 2004 in response to calls from the Governing Board to expand the failed Operations Committee and the regional presidents more operational control over the WJC. Since its creation, the Steering Committee has met in person or telephonically 11 times, with 4 meetings being held already this year. The Steering Committee continues to take direct management control of the WJC’s operations and policies. The Steering Committee receives regular reports from the Secretary General on the management and administration of the WJC, including reports from the WJC Foundation, the Budget and Finance Commission and the various departments within the WJC.

The Steering Committee will also review a report delivered by the Chairman of the Policy Council on the success of the Council's first meeting.

- b. World Jewish Congress Israel Operations – As mandated by the Steering Committee, the Secretary General continues to improve the effectiveness of the WJC's operations. Specifically with regards to the WJC's operations in Israel, the Steering Committee expressed the desire to make the WJC Israel Office the central location for Jewish community officials visiting Israel, in addition to ensuring that the office maintains the capacity to support the diplomatic and political efforts of the WJC worldwide as they relate to Israel. To enhance its presence in Israel and facilitate the desires of the Steering Committee, the WJC has established a representative office in Israel to exist independently, but work in tandem with the Israel Branch. A new Director of Administration has been recruited and has now begun her responsibilities. The Director of Future Generations will be supported by this office, as will the International Council of Jewish Parliamentarians, the Roth Institute at Tel Aviv University, the World Jewish Congress Institute, and the WJC Israel Council on Foreign Relations.
- c. World Jewish Congress American Section
 - i. Reconfirmed Membership – Through legal processes of re-registration, the American Section updated its membership roster by dropping 12 organizations which were either no longer functioning or were not actively involved in the American Section, bringing the current total membership to 21. In May 2006, the new American Friends of Kadima became the first organization to join the American Section under the revised by-laws, and several other organizations are currently considering membership for September 2006.
 - ii. New Bylaws – The American Section adopted new by-laws in May 2006, reinforcing the governance role of the board (since renamed "the Governing Board") and reducing the Executive Committee to comprise only the officers of the American Section. At the same time, outdated provisions in

the by-laws were updated or replaced with new best practices consistent with the functions of the American Section and other institutions.

- iii. Nominating Committee – The American Section
Nominating Committee has already met once, and will meet again before the American Section Governing Board meeting, to discuss and finalize a slate of candidates to present to its Governing Board for consideration at its September 2006 meeting.
- iv. Membership Committee – The American Section
Membership Committee met and provided recommendations as well as contacts for prospective member organizations. The Executive Director continues to follow-up on these recommendations as well as pursue additional possibilities.
- v. Major events – The American Section is planning several diplomatic-related events in Washington and New York during the summer and autumn, as well as intensive planning for the March 2007 International Council of Jewish Parliamentarians session in Washington. The American Section will also be hosting a major meeting of American Jewish leadership in New York during September 2006.

d. World Jewish Congress Foundation

- i. The World Jewish Congress Foundation (Foundation), a fully accredited 501 (c)(3) Not-for-Profit organization, was founded in 2005 for the express purpose of earning support for the World Jewish Congress. The Foundation engages in fundraising efforts to secure operating funds and grant money for the WJC, which the Foundation board disperses at its discretion. Contributions are solicited through direct mail campaigns, major donor fundraising initiatives, estate contributions, and other activities.

Funds raised by the Foundation are distributed to the World Jewish Congress via a formal grant process. Under this process, the WJC and its related entities submit grant

requests directly to the Foundation, which reviews them and then determines who will receive grants, for what purposes, for what amount, and under what conditions. The Foundation also receives and reviews reports on grant usage and will take the necessary steps to ensure full compliance with IRS and state regulations, as well as with United States federal anti-terrorism regulations.

- ii. Direct Mail – The Foundation began sending Direct Mail solicitations to residents of the United States in April 2006, taking over the practice formerly carried out by the WJC American Section. The Foundation management has also implemented substantial cost-saving measures, removing redundancies, improving the contract-bidding process, and improving efficiency. The Foundation also created a 12-month mail calendar whereby a schedule for all prospective solicitations, recipients, subjects of letters and deadlines are clear and readily accessible to staff, improving performance and increasing accountability. The Foundation also began a process of synergizing the Direct Mail with other forms of fundraising including, bequests, major donor giving and event participation.
- iii. 18-month Review – The Foundation has completed an 18 month top to bottom review of the fundraising mechanisms previously employed by the World Jewish Congress American Section. In doing so, the Foundation discovered numerous areas to improve efficiency, focus and reduce costs. The Foundation renegotiated contracts with vendors and terms of service for consultants. In doing so, the Foundation was able to substantially reduce the publication and distribution costs (while increasing the per copy income rate) associated with *Dateline World Jewry* among other things. The Foundation also began to hold independent contractors responsible for the timing and quality of their work, leading to a dramatic improvement in quality and even restitution in situations of error or poor performance.
- iv. Major Donor Program – In addition to Direct Mail solicitations, the Foundation has begun focusing energy and

resources on developing and improving the Major Donor program. The Major Donor program works with those donors who have the potential to give large contributions and often support specific program or initiatives. To advance these efforts, the Foundation is working with existing lists of major contributors and WJC officials, as well as developing new contacts and independent leads. Though these efforts are usually seen as long-term investments in individuals, the Foundation has already begun to see substantial quantitative results with the raising of hundreds of thousands of dollars through this program.

- v. Matching Gift Program – To increase the value of every contribution, the Foundation often offers the opportunity for donors’ contributions to be matched by other donors. For years, this offer was made exclusively by WJC President Edgar M. Bronfman. Results have shown that this offer is incredibly beneficial to fundraising campaigns, substantially increasing the number of donors to a particular effort and the amount which those donors contribute. To build on this record of success, the Foundation has begun to expand the circle of major donors who contribute to matching gift opportunities. This allows participating major donors to have their contributions cause an increase in revenue beyond their individual contributions and allows smaller donors to have their contributions double through a match by the major donor.
- vi. New Communications on Giving Opportunities – The Foundation has launched new initiatives in communicating giving opportunities to prospective and current donors. Each month well over 150,000 individuals around the United States receive *Dateline World Jewry*. An important resource of news about the Jewish communities of the world, *Dateline World Jewry* now contains critical information about bequests, wills and other giving opportunities. The foundation continues to develop these new and innovative techniques to communicate giving opportunities to prospective donors.

- vii. Foundation Board – The Foundation is governed by a board of directors who strive to represent the Jews of America, with a commitment to geographical diversity. The number of board members that occupy positions with WJC entities is limited to no more than 20 percent. The board was recently expanded to seven members and currently consists of: Abraham Biderman, Matthew Bronfman, Marc Hauser, Fred P. Hochberg, Adam H. Koffler and Fredric Mack. Seymour W. Zises serves as the Foundation’s president. At its inaugural meeting the board elected Edgar M. Bronfman, World Jewish Congress President, Chairman Emeritus of the Foundation and as such he assists in its fundraising activities, in no way altering his position as President of the World Jewish Congress. The Foundation Board also appointed Herbert Juli Executive Director. Mr. Juli served previously as Director of Development of the World Jewish Congress American Section, the former fundraising entity for the World Jewish Congress.

- viii. 70/25 Campaign – This year, the World Jewish Congress in conjunction with the WJC Foundation and WJC affiliates around the world launched the WJC 70/25 campaign marking the 70th anniversary of the WJC’s creation and the 25th year Mr. Edgar M. Bronfman’s Presidency. The campaign is designed to honor those two historic milestones and raise funds to support the regional operations of the World Jewish Congress. Presently, there are two such events about to be held in Latin American to benefit the Latin American Jewish community and one tentatively planned for Baku to benefit the Euro-Asian Jewish community.

- e. Audit Committees – Audit Committees have been formed for the World Jewish Congress and each related organization operating in the United States. The audit committees are independently selected by the board of each entity, report back to the individual boards and are tasked with selecting auditors to prepare legally required financials statements and review those statements, accompanying audits and management reports. It is expected that the audit committees will preside over the 2006 audit.

3. Status of Funds

- a. WJC global budget and actual 2006 – After five months, the WJC is running on budget for the year 2006. Fundraising income has increased; fundraising costs have decreased; affiliate expenses remain on plan; and headquarters expenses have increased to accommodate new initiatives. The WJC expects to meet its global budget for 2006.
- b. Repayments to the WJC – The World Jewish Congress has received the totality of the funds sought from Israel Singer under the terms of the Assurance of Discontinuance entered into between the New York State Attorney General and the World Jewish Congress and the WJC American Section, the majority of which were repaid by Singer voluntarily prior to the issuing of the AOD. The WJC has obtained restitution from Elan Steinberg and Avi Beker in accordance with Paragraphs 42 and 70 of the Assurance of Discontinuance entered into between the New York State Attorney General and the World Jewish Congress and the WJC American Section. This process is not yet complete regarding Steinberg.
- c. Payment by a former vendor – The WJC also received repayment of substantial funds from a former vendor whose work was of a quality that caused sufficient harm and damage to the WJC as to warrant compensation.
- d. Total Restitution to WJC – The World Jewish Congress has obtained substantial restitution totaling nearly \$1 million as part of its restructuring and in accordance with commitments made to the NYSAG by the Secretary General in their agreed Assurance of Discontinuance entered into between the New York State Attorney General and the World Jewish Congress and the WJC American Section.