FEDERATION OF POLISH JEWS

IN THE UNITED STATES, INC.

אַמעריקאַנער פעדעראַציע פון פּוילישע יידן

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August 6, 1976

Mr. Artur Rubinstein
c/o Organi
24 Rue d'Artois
Paris 8e, France

My Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

I have shared with Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Stern a matter of considerable import which is near and dear to my heart. Through their good offices, I have obtained your address and while not wishing to impose, I am taking the liberty of writing to you in behalf of a most worthy cause for which I hope to elicit your support. And I note at the outset that I seek merely your support and the use of your name and affirmation of the merit of the project which I describe in the following paragraphs.

Of the many European Jewish communities which were destroyed, none was prouder and yet none is less properly memorialized and remembered for the future than was Polish Jewry. The German Jews have their Leo Baeck Institute, Sephardic and Oriental Jews have their Porat Yosef in the old city of Jerusalem, etc. etc. But Polish Jewry has no like center for the perpetuation of the many cultural and religious and artistic creativity which it offered to the world in the span of a thousand years.

In order to remedy this lack, the World Federation of Polish Jews, in cooperation with Tel Aviv University, has determined to create an Institute for the Research and Study of Polish Jewry at Tel-Aviv University. This Institute will also include a Chair for the Study and Teaching of the above. One of the many elements of Jewish life which will be preserved in the Center is the contribution of Polish Jewry to the creative arts, to music, dance, poetry, and even to the plastic arts. And you, dear Mr. Rubinstein, are the person who most symbolizes the flowering of this creativity and genius in the artistic realm; you, the little boy from Lodz who now belongs to the world and to the ages.

As you can imagine, money is needed for this project, an amazingly small sums, all things considered, because of matching contributions from The Jewish Agency and the Israeli Government. We earnestly feel that these sums could be raised were you to agree to lend your name and your positive reaction to this endeavor.

One final word, perhaps one of the reasons why Polish Jewry is not as well remembered is because Polish Jews suffered the most grievously. After all, its sons and daughters constituted the bulk of our martyrs in the whirlwind of the destruction in which six million Jews were killed and so it is up to the few survivors, and indeed all survivors, and all Jews are survivors, to speak for the dead.

It is my fond hope that you will give serious thought to this project and to granting permission for the use of your name in support of this endeavor. If you have any questions I would be happy to respond to them and to provide any further information you might require. Needless to note, your affirmative response and assistance will in a large measure help to bring this dream to reality.

With many thanks and with every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler