

Jack:

I had wanted to speak with you and relate the content of this message but I realize that you are on the road.

In December of 1996, Michael Berenbaum, the Director of the Research Institute at the Holocaust Museum, resigned, and I was contacted by Walter Reich, the Director of the Museum, about my availability for a senior position there. I indicated that I would be available in October of 1997 at the completion of the Review Board's work.

The departure of Berenbaum led to a major reorganization of the Museum and the creation of a new position, "Director of Collections." I was encouraged to apply for this position and received a job offer earlier this week. The position is an important one that offers long-term security and a chance to return to my field of study. By any reasonable standard, the decision should be an easy one. My sense of loyalty to you and to my colleagues makes this, however, an extremely difficult step for me to take.

After considerable reflection, I am inclined to accept the Museum's offer but wanted to let you know about all of this before I do. I will not share this news with the rest of the Board or staff until we have a chance to speak.

David