March 12, 1941

Hon. Herbert H. Lehman
Governor of the State of New York
Albany, N. Y.

My dear Governor Lehman:

The Interfaith Committee for Aid to the Democracies was formed some weeks ago to secure maximum Catholic, Protestant and Jewish support for the cause of the democracies which are resisting Nazi aggression and especially in order to help American opinion understand the broad human issues which are dependent upon the victory of Great Britain.

Outstanding lay and religious leaders of all three faiths have joined in the formation of this committee. In turn the membership of each group was invited to identify itself actually with our undertaking.

In order to secure the support of American Jews, a Jewish Section of the Interfaith Committee has been initiated. In cooperation with Catholics and Protestants this Section will undertake, as part of the Interfaith Committee, to stimulate among Jews moral and material support of the democracies. A special undertaking of the Jewish Section is cooperation with the British War Relief Society in order to secure funds for a fleet of mobile field kitchens imperatively required for the use of the British population.

In order to carry out this undertaking the Jewish Section has arranged to establish a working committee with headquarters at the offices of the British War Relief Society at 57 William Street.

More than 100 outstanding leaders of the Jewish community in various sections of the United States, as the attached list indicates, have already consented to serve as sponsors of the Jewish Section.

We would deem it a great privilege if you would consent to serve as the Honorary Chairman of the Jewish Section.

In anticipation that we may have the privilege of the use of your name in this important undertaking, we remain,

Sincerely yours,

Henry A. Atkinson

Encl.