



FOUNDATION "PRIZE GRAND RABBI JOSEPH COHEN"

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 3

JUNE 2001

Dear friends,

Our state of mind as we write the third newsletter of our foundation is one of deep emotion and disarray.

The prize of the Foundation Grand Rabbi Joseph Cohen wishes to carry a torch of hope. Its aim is to encourage any initiative which promotes tolerance and harmony between people.

Accordingly, we have decided to give the prize once again to the school The Garden of Peace in Jerusalem which brings together children from Christian, Jewish and Muslim cultures.

Unfortunately, as you know, our hopes which have been kept alive by this school and other similar ones in Israël appear to be seriously challenged. The head of the school Mr. Rizek Abuscharr, whom we met in Geneva during a function organized by the Janusz Korczak, thanked us for our financial support and reiterated the crucial importance of our moral support...

The last letter we have received from him reflected unfortunately a deep sense of discouragement considering the increasing number of factors which hamper our hopes.

Hence, we have felt an even greater need to offer him and his colleagues our support in their task as fragile as it may appear today for it is our belief that it is the only one worth our respect and love and is dedication to our future.

Gilles Cohen-Colin
Vice-Président

It is a pleasure to have my son express our shared views in this third bulletin.

Should anyone be aware of possible candidates worthy of our attention, please contact the Foundation.



Parents and children, arabs and jews, pussing an old traditional olives press, after picking olives together .



Childrens, arabs and jews, having breakfast together.



Children arabs and jews, planting for Tou Bishvat : the birthday of the trees.



Tamer and Noah, two years old, playing together.

Foundation "Prize Grand Rabbi Joseph Cohen"

Purpose :

To bring mankind together. To encourage all initiatives which contribute to enhance understanding, fraternity and tolerance. In view of this, we will gather people of good will, from all backgrounds, to attribute every year a prize of twenty thousand French Francs for the next fifty years to the most deserving person or organization for their writings or actions in view of supporting them in their efforts.

Profession of Faith :

My heart leads me to optimism even though my mind calls for pessimism. Should we give up our efforts to encourage the good ? Idealism is not enough even if my father's dedication was unconditional. His fondest desire to see men improve and open their eyes to the only possible outlet for their survival : the acceptance of others, tolerance and love for their fellow humans ... is a pious wish. In a world where class struggles, competing ideologies and interests and whims of domination's are on the increase, what can we do in order to keep hope alive and encourage those who would like to devote themselves to creating a more understanding world ? Hatred - which my father to be the first heresy to contend with is alas a major factor in the rebellion of the unprivileged and hopeless for whom the future looks bleak . How can you reverse this trend ? Fancy speeches will not suffice. To become a reality, the dream of a better world will require action.

Let us remain unpretentious, our efforts have their limitations. It is up to us to pick the targets and the means within those boundaries. It is up to us direct our search to ensure that it is worthwhile.

The first action of the "Committee of the Wise" will be to concern itself with this fundamental question. What should we do and how ?

Aware of the difficulty of the task but wishing to cast the first white stone in hope that there will be others, I do not retreat in face of what could be considered a challenge and announce the creation of the Foundation "Prize Grand Rabbi Joseph Cohen", adopting the phrase he liked to use and who was formulated by President David Ben Gourion when the state of Israël was created : "Who does not believe in miracles is not realist".

Michel Cohen-Colin

The Foundation does not require any donations. Its funding was secured at the time of its creation to cover the next fifty years.

On request we will send this newsletter to anyone to whom it may be of interest.

The Deed and Status of the Foundation were established on the 8 th of June 1988 at Mr. Etienne Jeandin, Notary Public, in Geneva.