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April 18, 2008

Prof. Dr. Alfred Donath  
President  
Federation of Swiss Jewish Communities  
Gotthardstrasse 65  
CH 8027 Zurich

Ms. Nicole Poëll  
Co-President  
Plateforme des Juifs Libéraux de Suisse PJLS  
Hallwylstrasse 78  
CH-8004 Zurich

Dear Professor Donath and Madame Poëll:

Although we have not received a copy of the letter addressed to us that CICAD posted on its website, we felt the need to respond immediately to the concerns you raised.

We regret that our ads generated resentment toward the Swiss Jewish community. That, of course, was not our intention, and we respect your decision to distance yourselves from the campaign. This was, after all, ADL's campaign not yours, which you acknowledged in response to our email informing you in advance of our intention to run ads criticizing the Swiss-Iranian gas deal. We appreciate your willingness to exchange ideas about the Swiss-Iranian gas deal, an issue on which we find ourselves in substantial agreement – that it is deeply disturbing, merits serious attention, and carries international implications. We look forward to such an exchange at the earliest possible time.

You should be aware that we have received thanks for our ads from some in the Swiss Jewish community. One email noted that even though the community was “now very occupied with a lot of hate mails and other activities that emerged unfortunately from this campaign. Nevertheless we think, that it is important to inform the people even if it hurts a little.”

While the gas contract concerns Switzerland and its citizens, as you recognize, the implications of the deal reach far beyond Switzerland. The participation or non-participation of foreign – and particularly European – companies in the Iranian energy sector is a critical component in the effort to apply serious economic pressure on Iran for its decision to pursue nuclear weapons and to finance terrorism around the world. And the Iranian nuclear weapons program threatens the existence of Israel and the security of Europe and the United States.

Prof. Dr. Alfred Donath  
Ms. Nicole Poëll  
April 18, 2008  
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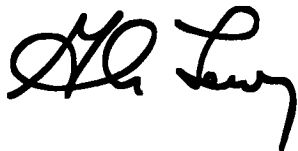
Although our ads addressed the actions of the Swiss government, their message was intended to remind others in the international community who might be contemplating investments in or contracts with the Iranian energy sector that now is not the time for business as usual. For that very reason, the ads were published in the International Herald Tribune, the Wall Street Journal Europe, and the New York Times, in addition to Swiss newspapers. At this time we do not plan to run additional ads.

It is disheartening to learn that our message has been seized upon by some in the Swiss community as an opportunity to disrupt Swiss inter-communal relations. We are also saddened that some of the negative reactions to our ads may be motivated by feelings of anti-Semitism, which in the short term may make your job more difficult. However, we wish to make it perfectly clear that we believe it is the responsibility of all of us to emphasize to the world the danger posed by Iran.

ADL and many other Jewish organizations have put great efforts into persuading certain European governments to ask major energy companies not to develop new business in Iran, and we were encouraged that the leaders of France, Germany, and Great Britain eventually adopted that position. Soon after, we saw Switzerland's foreign minister visiting Tehran and engaging in a high-profile press conference with President Ahmadinejad as they discussed a landmark gas contract. We ask you, how could we possibly stay silent as the Swiss government bestowed its approval on a deal that threatens the positive political momentum in Europe on an issue of paramount and global importance?

Confronting the Iranian nuclear program requires trans-Atlantic solidarity among countries and among Jewish communities, and we are confident that we shall be able to move ahead in partnership. We look forward to finding ways in which we can work together, and at times separately, to achieve our common goals.

Sincerely,



Glen S. Lewy  
National Chairman



Abraham H. Foxman  
National Director