



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

www.state.gov

March 17, 2004

Mr. Michael Posner
Executive Director
Human Rights First
333 Seventh Avenue,
13th floor
New York, NY 10001

Dear Mr. Posner:

Secretary Powell has requested that I respond to your letter of March 10, 2004 regarding U.S. participation in the OSCE Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism on April 28-29.

Secretary Powell sees the Berlin Conference as an important event in the struggle against anti-Semitism in the OSCE area. His appointment of former New York Mayor Edward Koch to head the U.S. Delegation is an indication of the special significance the United States attaches to the struggle against anti-Semitism. Mayor Koch was chosen because of his proven leadership in fighting anti-Semitism and promoting tolerance in a large multicultural municipality. Ambassador to the OSCE Stephan Minikes and I will join Mayor Koch, along with distinguished members of the Congress, NGO representatives and private citizens active in the fight against anti-Semitism.

I can assure you that the United States Government will spare no effort to promote a successful outcome in Berlin, and I welcome the important role that NGOs such as yours continue to play in the fight against anti-Semitism and all other forms of intolerance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. B. O'Donnell", written in a cursive style.

Ambassador Edward B. O'Donnell
Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues