

**COMMISSION ON
SECURITY AND COOPERATION
IN EUROPE**

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April 16, 2004

The Honorable Colin L. Powell
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Powell:

We are writing to express our appreciation for your leadership and support of efforts within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to combat anti-Semitism and intolerance. We believe the work underway in the OSCE and with its participating States is truly historic: for the first time, all members have repeatedly denounced anti-Semitism and pledged to take action. In addition, as you know, participating States have decided to convene a special OSCE conference in Berlin on April 27-28 to discuss strategies on how to more effectively combat anti-Semitism in the OSCE region.

As members of the official U.S. delegation to the Berlin Conference, we respectfully ask that you join us for the meeting. Your presence in Berlin would underscore the commitment of the United States to fight anti-Semitism, while also encouraging other participating States to send delegations of the highest level. Your participation will complement the leadership of Mayor Ed Koch, whose expertise and energy make him an excellent head of delegation.

We also raise our concern about reported efforts by the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation (Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Jordan) to block a reference to the State of Israel in the conference declaration, which is currently under discussion in Vienna. The Egyptian Embassy in Vienna apparently led the move, and the Mediterranean Partners are threatening to diminish or withdraw their participation in OSCE if such a statement is included. Any action that even hints at giving these States a role in drafting an OSCE document, let alone a veto, would be completely unacceptable given their Partner status.

Mr. Secretary, again we greatly value your personal commitment to denounce and combat anti-Semitism and intolerance, wherever it may occur. Your personal participation in the Berlin Conference would underscore U.S. leadership in this effort, highlight U.S.-German cooperation in combating anti-Semitism, and enhance the visibility of this historic meeting.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin, M.C.
Commissioner



Christopher H. Smith, M.C.
Chairman