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To: Boycott Watch, attn. Mr. Fred Taub  
Fax: 216-321-2755

From: Agricultural Department  
Our ref.: 7.c.1  
Pages: 2

Date: December 5, 2002

Subject: ritual slaughter

Dear Mr. Taub,

With reference to our telephone conversation of today, please let me bring you up to date on the subject of ritual slaughtering in the Netherlands.

My government has never banned the ritual slaughter of animals. Under Dutch law, animals have to be put under anesthesia before slaughter. Exception are made to allow for other slaughtering methods, such as the ones under Jewish law and Muslim law. We do, however, demand adherence to our animal welfare laws. There have been a few incidents in the past with the kosher slaughter of older, heavier animals, where death was not immediate. The slaughtering of older animals was, therefore, temporarily suspended until a mutually agreeable regulation could be put together.

The matter has been discussed on the highest level between the Jewish community in the Netherlands and the Minister of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries. This meeting has resulted in a new instruction for our meat and livestock inspectors, which respected both our animal welfare concerns and the Jewish slaughtering tradition. Both parties have express satisfaction with the outcome.

For your information, I am enclosing a press release issued on July 22, 2002, by the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, which was issued after a meeting they had with the Dutch Consul-General in New York.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Inge Hamid-Hardenberg', written over a horizontal line.  
Inge Hamid-Hardenberg  
Agricultural Attaché

**From:** Casey Miller [MillerKC@jcrny.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 29, 2002 10:59 AM  
**To:** Horree, Frank  
**Subject:** JCRC Press Release

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## PRESS RELEASE

**Contact:**  
Harriet Mandel  
212-983-4800 x126

For Immediate Release  
July 22, 2002

### **Reports of Dutch banning of "Shechita" (Jewish ritual slaughter) prompts meeting with Dutch Consul General; JCRC praises resolution in Holland to satisfaction of all parties**

In response to reports that the government of The Netherlands had banned kosher slaughter, the JCRC convened a meeting with Consul General Bob Hiensch of The Netherlands, to convey the concerns of the New York Jewish community on this matter. Consul General Hiensch informed the delegation that following a June 18, 2002 meeting on the subject between representatives of the Jewish Community in the Netherlands, and the Dutch Minister of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, the matter had been resolved. Consul General Hiensch presented the group with a statement issued by the Dutch Consulate which explained that at the time of the June 18th meeting, "a joint decision to eliminate any misinterpretation in the current rules governing ritual slaughtering methods" was reached. According to the statement, the Jewish ritual slaughter controversy arose over the slaughtering of "older, heavier bulls", which, because of their thicker skin "sometimes needed multiple strokes of the knife", and therefore, "did not meet the criteria as set forth in Dutch law", concerning animal health and welfare. The statement emphasized that the Jewish ritual "slaughtering of younger animals was allowed" throughout, and was never in question and, therefore, "ritual slaughtering was never banned in The Netherlands..." The JCRC leadership was pleased to learn that a mutually acceptable arrangement between the Jewish community and Dutch agricultural authorities for the slaughtering of these older animals has now been worked out.

Consul General Bob Hiensch offered that he felt confident that "The Dutch guidelines for ritual slaughter reflected a delicate balance between religious requirement and animal welfare". Michael S. Miller, JCRC's Executive Vice President, who attended the meeting along with Past JCRC President Judah Gribetz, Board Member Sally Goodgold, and Director of Israel and International Affairs Harriet Mandel reflected the sentiment of the group by stating that "We are pleased that the Dutch government has been responsive to the needs of the Jewish community in Holland".

In addition to the matter of ritual slaughter, other issues including anti-Semitism in Europe, the Holocaust, restitution of works of art, and Dutch and European Middle East policy were discussed in a open, candid and amicable manner. Future meetings are planned to follow up discussions on these and other matters of mutual concern.

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The Jewish Community Relations Council is a beneficiary of UJA Federation of NY.