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THE GESHER FOUNDATION BOX 170 COOPER STATION NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10003

Rabbi Norman Lamm  
The Jewish Center  
131 West 86th Street  
New York, N. Y.

February 9, 1971

Dear Rabbi Lamm:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter sent by Deputy Minister Shaki to Mr. Louis Striar. Mr. Striar, who made an annual commitment of \$2000 to Geshher, had requested the Ministry's critique of Geshher progress.

While such complimentary blurbs are a dime a dozen, this letter amounts to an official endorsement from the Israeli Ministry of Education and Culture, something which I understand is quite unusual. I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of the letter to Stanley Stern, and trust that you will keep a copy on file for appropriate use.

Getting on to other things, I plan to visit Israel in March and will use the opportunity to review Geshher's progress and to plot its future together with Danny. Danny, is especially eager for such a reappraisal, and will be very receptive to constructive criticism. Before I go, I would like to hear your views in greater detail. I'll be happy to meet with you at your convenience, perhaps over lunch one day, to discuss Geshher's future.

Please let me know if and when you can squeeze me into that infamous schedule of yours.

Best regards,

Chaim

CB/jg





לשכת סגן שר החינוך והתרבות

December 15, 1970

Mr. Louis Striar,  
Eastland Woolen Mills,  
Orono, Maine.

Dear Mr. Striar,

Dr. Daniel Tropper of the Gesher Foundation has asked me to write to you a critique of Gesher and apprise you of my impressions of their activities.

The Ministry of Education regards Gesher as one of the most important new movements on the Israeli educational and cultural scene. A number of their programs have, in fact, received official grants from the Ministry, and this at a time of "belt-tightening" when allocations are not easily granted. These programs include:

1. The Gesher lecture program in High Schools and Kibbutzim,
2. The Gesher seminar program for religious and non-religious youngsters at Kfar Etzion (a revolutionary idea in Israel and one which, from the reactions of school principals, I know has met with unusual success).
3. Gesher publications

May I add a personal note. When Dr. Tropper first arrived in Israel to begin Gesher, I was somewhat skeptical of the venture, in view of the young age of the leadership. However, their competent and effective execution of the Gesher ideals has demonstrated to me that they succeed precisely because of their youth, and the enthusiasm and imagination which comes with it. I am convinced that Gesher has a great future and that if it continues at its present rate it will become one of the largest and most significant educational operations in Israel.

I very much look forward to making your personal acquaintance during a future visit to Israel. May I invite you to give me a call during your next stay here, so that we may meet.

Yours very truly,

*A. H. Shaki*  
Dr. Avner H. Shaki

Deputy Minister of Education and Culture

AHS/ra

c. c. : Dr. Daniel Tropper