

30 Jabotinsky Street
Jerusalem
November 4, 1970

Dr. Samuel Belkin
Yeshiva University
Amsterdam Avenue & 185th Street
New York, N. Y. 10033

Dear Dr. Belkin:

Life here has been settling into a routine since my return to Jerusalem, and I do want to write if only out of respect and affection.

I am completing the revision and preparation of my doctoral thesis for publication in both Hebrew and English, and I hope that I still have your consent for the English edition to bear the imprimatur of Yeshiva University.

There is continuing speculation, both public and private, in Israel about the nature and role of Yeshiva's forthcoming "branch" in Jerusalem. If you do not expect to make it a major school, in the sense of a true branch of Y. U., it may be wiser policy for Yeshiva to make this known in advance so that Israelis should not later complain of a let-down or disappointment. In the absence of any concrete information, the guessing that is going on invites both exaggerated expectations and the beginnings of a typically vehement Jerusalemite opposition. If I may be permitted one added suggestion -- this country needs a Yeshiva University even more than does the U.S.! The very high hopes of some, and the determined opposition of others, both prove the need.

Rabbi Shear Yashuv Cohen has told me of his and Rabbi Goren's conversations with you concerning some affiliation between Yeshiva and the Rabbinical Seminaries they are now building separately with the hope of eventual amalgamation: Cohen's school for training Rabbis for the Diaspora, and Goren's for Chaplains. I take it that both have in mind that their graduates will, after a short time, begin serving in Israeli civilian positions. I have accepted the invitation of Cohen to deliver a series of lectures in Jewish philosophy at his Seminary, and I begin this Friday. If you are interested in a report I shall be glad to offer any information you desire when I return in mid-January.

Meanwhile, please give warmest regards to Mrs. Belkin from my wife and myself and, for the sake of all of us who admire you and need you, please do not overwork.

Respectfully,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM