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6, Mapu St.,  
Jerusalem,  
Israel.  
Dec. 25th. 1963

Rabbi Norman Lamm,  
The Jewish Center,  
131 West. 86th. St.,  
New York.

My dear Rabbi Lamm, *N.C.R.*

It was good to hear from you, and I am pleased to tell you that all is well with us.

I knew from the S. African Jewish Press that you had accepted an invitation to visit the country on behalf of the S. African Board of Jewish Education, and I was delighted at the information. But let me say that if you regret that I am not in my old post, I regret much more that you are not there in that post! I think that after your visit you will agree with me that it was "no mean Rabbinate".

With regard to any information which I may be able to give you, I do so on the distinct understanding and condition that what I write is strictly confidential and between two colleagues, and under no circumstances may it be divulged. I know that I can rely upon you in that regard.

There are only two matters which I think you ought to know, the one belonging to the Educational sphere, the other to the Communal-Religious.

The Director of the Board of Education, [REDACTED], is a dedicated individual. His enthusiasm, sincerity and probity are beyond question. However from our point of view his views may be considered somewhat heterodox. If I could classify him I would put him into the Zechariah Frankel class. Not quite Conservative.... This ~~has~~ is reflected in the atmosphere of the otherwise outstandingly fine Jewish Day Schools. Torah and Mitzvot, though they play their part ~~xxx~~ tend to be relegated to Keren Zavit, in emotion if not in fact. As a result of his views, not less than his ~~academic~~ lack of academic qualifications, I rejected with contumely a remarkable suggestion by [REDACTED], the Principal of the Teachers' Seminary, and therefore an underling of [REDACTED], that I confer a formal Semicha upon him as it would add to the prestige of his office. To my great distress, shortly after my departure the employee [REDACTED] conferred the title "Rabbi" upon the employer. I must say that [REDACTED] went down in my estimation as a result. He has never revealed the source of this "Semicha" but merely began to assume the title and there was none to gainsay him. It may result in a strengthening of the religious content of the day schools, on the other hand it may have just the opposite result.

The second point is that you will find the Beth Din, of which I was so proud, and which could bear comparison with any Bet Din in a parlous position if it exists at all. Of the four members, I have not been replaced (there is some talk of Rabbi Casper being given a nominal seat), to my unutterable distress Rabbi Kossowsky has been struck down by serious illness, and there remain only Rabbis S. Rosenzweig and A.H. Lapin. The former is a great lamdan, but communally of no importance, while Rabbi Lapin you will find a man after your own heart in every way. The Secretary of the Beth Din, Rabbi Aloy, a Lubavitcher Chassid is a gem in every way.

I think it highly advisable, if you have not already done so, to have a long chat with Rabbi Weiss.

Would you please give my fondest regards to



Rabbi Dr. and Mrs. Jung?

Wishing you a pleasant time during what I  
am sure will be a most worthwhile visit and valuable  
experience,

Yours very sincerely,

*Shubert*

אֵירוֹגְרַם  
AEROGRAMME

תָּאֵר  
PAR AVION

Rabbi Norman Lamm,

Jewish Center,

131 West 86th St.,

New York 24, N.Y.

U.S.A.



קפל ראשון

קפל שלישי

אם ירשם משנה בפנים תישלח האגרת בדואר רגיל

השולח - EXPEDITEUR

Rabbi L. Rabinowitz,

6, Mapu St.,

Jerusalem, ISRAEL.

