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ABSTAINING FROM JAMAICA

One of our people at The Center recently sent this letter to the Jamaica Consulate. I believe it will prove interesting -- and instructive -- to our readers.

NORMAN LAMM

Dear Sirs:

I think it only fair to inform you that I had planned, quite some months ago, to spend my Winter vacation in Jamaica together with some of my friends.

I had done so in the past, and found your country simply delightful. Jamaica is, for me, one of the most relaxing and beautiful spots on earth.

Regretfully, I have changed my plans and will now spend my Winter vacation elsewhere in the Caribbean. My reasoning is quite simple: I do not go where I am not wanted. And obviously I am not wanted in Jamaica.

The reason for this is the vote of your government in the United Nations abstaining from the resolution equating Zionism with racism. You see, I am a Zionist. I can be little else but a Zionist, in view of the fact that my grandparents were born in Eastern Europe, and that the great majority of their family was destroyed by the Nazis. I love Israel, and I identify with her national aspirations.

Now, however, the United Nations has condemned me as a racist -- which, I know very well, I am not. Nevertheless, those who have officially branded me as such have no choice but to consider me, personally, a racist. Since your delegation at the United Nations abstained in this resolution, that means that you entertain serious doubts about my humanitarianism, and quite conceivably suspect that I am a racist.

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2 I -- and a large number of my friends -- have therefore decided that we
3 must abstain from spending our vacations in Jamaica. We certainly do not want
4 to foist the presence of racists upon your lovely island.

5 I am truly sorry about this, but I have never wanted to be an unwelcome
6 guest.
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