



the gesher foundation

JERUSALEM:
GAD BUILDING
HASSOREG 2

NEW-YORK:
10 EAST 40th ST.
NINTH FLOOR
NEW-YORK, 10016

February 2, 1972
17 Shevar, 5732

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

Dear Rabbi Lamm,

Since we met at the King David I have had the opportunity to pursue the Russian immigrant matter a bit further.

I do not regard the possibility of setting up a Traditional Russian newspaper as very good. The very fact that Rabbi Sher is heading the effort shows that people are not too serious about it. However, I will probably be in the Knesset tomorrow and will try to see Werdyger then.

With respect to Rabbi Kalman, however, I must concur with your analysis. He is very committed and seems to be following through well. I have met with him, have given him a bit of advice, and have agreed to help him in another way. Last week, I received a letter from Chuck Sheer of Columbia University, representing the Russian Center. It seems that they have also now become interested in the religious aspects of Russian absorption and have met with Joshua Pratt at the Consulate on the matter. Pratt, according to Chuck, responded very sympathetically, and agreed to present to the government any sensible proposal brought forth by the Center. Chuck turned to me for some practical proposals, and a copy of my response to him, referring to both Gesher and Rabbi Kalman, is enclosed.

Incidentally, I am also enclosing a copy of a letter which I sent to Rabbi Hyatt a while ago.

Last week I met with [REDACTED] and looked for an opening to discuss your idea of keritat brit. However, as I sat there,



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I saw more and more clearly a spiritually dead technocrat before me. There was just no sense in even mentioning it.

On Motzai Shabbat, Gesher will be making its first television appearance. It will be in the form of a half-hour program (Ha-mavdil) in which the first ten minutes will feature films of the Chanukah seminar, and the remaining time devoted to a separate panel discussion on dati-lo-dati relations. I have suffered nothing but aggravation with the religious wing of television in choosing the panel, and today, only after I threatened to seek an injunction to halt the showing of our film, did they finally agree to allow a non-religious participant on the panel. (The other two panelists are both bearded - a Chabadnik and a Baal Tshuva.) It's uncanny how dexterous the religious community is in consistently choosing the worst people for the most important positions. The religious wing of television understands absolutely nothing about the media or the non-religious mind. Very frustrating.

I thank you for your suggestion that I contact Archie Peck, but, frankly, at present I have no connection with South Africa. I will, however, see what I can do to get a proper introduction.

Best regards to Mindy and the children.

Sincerely,

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enc. - sent under seperate cover