

April 5, 1971

Dear Rabbi Lamm,

I met with Dr. Burg on Erev Shabbat concerning your letter to Golda Meir. In between his various jokes and stories, I managed to learn that a committee composed of members of just about every party has been formed to oversee the Shapiro project. Burg, therefore, called the project 'non-political'. However, in subsequent meetings with the Ministry's spokesman Yaakov Agassi (Shapiro's ex-ozaer) and a few other insiders I was able to piece together the following: The "committee" is a collection of names but in actual practice it is a Mafdal directed affair. The Shapiro project, it seems, will after all be ~~Kfar~~ Gush Ezion, but not the kibbutz Kfar Ezion but the Mercaz Aizori (the hill on which the Yeshiva stands--where you slept the night you attended seminar). They plan to develop that hill--or Yad Shapiro as it is slated to be called--into a large educational center to the tune of IL10 million. The Rothschilds are throwing in the lion's share (here's where Rav Amital got his money), the government will give another large chunk and private donations will complete it.

Now [redacted] has been informed that if he agrees to move his Bet Sefer Sadeh and proposed Medrashiat Har Chevron to the Mercaz Aizori he can share in the kitty. [redacted], however, has stubbornly refused. He is interested in Kfar Ezion and that's it. Despite the many logical reasons other than financial presented to dissuade [redacted] (e.g. a kibbutz is a community and not the place where you want groups of visiting kids floating around all day), he has stubbornly refused.

Agassi and Moskovitz of Misrad Hapnim have told me frankly that if ~~we~~ I can convince [redacted] to make the move and ~~join~~ him in his Medrashiat Har Chevron there can be quite a bit of money for Gesher in the deal. However, I know [redacted] well and he will not budge. No amount of money will lure him from furthering the development of his precious Kfar Ezion in the direction that he wants.

And so this is the situation. Naturally, I will have a long talk with [redacted] on the matter during our Pesach ~~seminar~~ seminar. I am not, however, overly optimistic. *perhaps I can find some use.*

This is the only significant development in Gesher subsequent to Chaim's visit. Chaim's visit by the way was extremely productive and I am certain that he has brought you up to date.

Best wishes for a *hanei ves ch* to the entire family.

Yours very truly,

*Danny*