

37
13 Massapoag Lane
Sharon, Mass. 02067
Nov. 27, 1972

Dear Rabbi Lamm,

I am taking the liberty of sending you copies of letters I have just now written to Mr. Harry Steinberg, Executive Director of the American Zionist Federation (515 Park Av., N.Y.C.) and to Mr. Moshe Ofer of the Permanent Israeli Mission to the U.N. (800 2nd Av.)

The letters explain themselves. Meanwhile, I have before me a letter you wrote me dated Oct. 7, 1970, in which you say in part: "I am genuinely excited about the book! Despite the horrid name.... I find your argument so clear, the language so uncluttered.....that these first chapters alone represent the kind of work I had long been urging on my Israeli and Zionist friends -- a primer for Jewish students and Jews in public life...."

My thought is that the book might perhaps now be revised into such a primer, with the support of the Zionist Federation, the U.J.A., and perhaps the Israelis themselves.

I will phone Miss Wagner in a day or two. However, since I don't know whether she knows of the book (she wrote to me in care of my fiction publisher) or whether it is quite what she and the U.J.A. may have in mind, I thought that before getting back to her I would inquire whether Mr. Ofer and his colleagues and Mr. Steinberg feel as they did two years ago. I will also appreciate any suggestions you may have.

On another subject, you will be glad to hear that the National Council of Young Israel has been in touch with the Sharon Orthodox Minyan, and will probably grant it a charter within the next several weeks. This will certainly help it to grow. The Minyan is now in its 36th week, and still has a perfect record of never failing to have a minyan on shabat or yom tov.

Sincerely,

Myron K.
Myron S. Kaufmann

13 Massapoag Lane
Sharon, Mass. 02067
Nov. 27, 1972

Dear Mr. Steinberg,

I'm sure you will remember my booklet, "The Coming Destruction of Israel," which I wrote in 1970 when William Rogers was doing his best to hand the Middle East over to the Russians, and which you helped to distribute through the American Zionist Federation.

American policy has since changed sharply for the better, starting in that year, and Russian policy has suffered reverses. Still, a need remains for a concise and readable primer on what the Jews, the Arabs, and the Russians are doing in the area. I have thought of updating and revising my 1970 book to fill that need.

Recently Miss Dassi Wagner of the public relations firm of Allerton, Berman & Dean (39 West 55th St., N.Y.C.; 265-2610) has written to me on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal, suggesting the possibility of my authoring a book to be sponsored by the U.J.A. in connection with the 25th anniversary of Israel.

I have not yet replied. However, it occurs to me that my 1970 effort, revised and retitled, and made widely available on college campuses, would be the best propaganda effort I could make on Israel's behalf.

In 1970 the Israeli diplomatic corps was much taken with the text of the manuscript, and would have backed the book openly if we could have gotten to the publisher in time to change the title and to delete the paragraph about Nixon. I wonder what we could do with a revised book today, if the A.Z.F., the U.J.A., and the Israeli Diplomatic Corps were behind it.

Could you let me know your thoughts?

Sincerely,


Myron S. Kaufmann

13 Massapoag Lane
Sharon, Mass. 02067
Nov. 27, 1972

Dear Mr. Ofer,

I'm sure you will remember the manuscript I showed you in 1970 while you were Consul General in Boston, and which was published soon afterward by the New American Library under the unfortunate title of "The Coming Destruction of Israel."

I recall the enthusiasm that you and your colleagues felt for the content of the manuscript, and your feeling that if the title could be changed, and the paragraph about the President deleted, the Israeli Diplomatic Corps might want to help in ensuring a wide distribution.

Recently Miss Dassi Wagner of the public relations firm of Allerton, Berman & Dean (39 West 55th St., New York City; 265-2610) has written to me on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal, suggesting the possibility of my authoring a book to be sponsored by the U.J.A. in connection with the 25th anniversary of Israel.

I have not yet replied to Miss Wagner. However, it occurs to me that there is a continuing need for a primer on the Middle East situation, that would be clear and forceful without sacrificing accuracy or completeness, and that would make an impact on the average college student, editor, or general reader. I have thought of updating my 1970 text with that end in view. I think my chapters particularly on the Jewish claim to the area, the spuriousness of the Arab arguments, and the motives of the Arab states and of the U.S.S.R., are still unsurpassed in terms of concise analysis and capacity for engaging the reader.

My thought is to revise the book as a primer for continued use. In 1970 my primary target was the Rogers policy. Of course, since then American policy has greatly changed for the better, and the Russian policy has suffered reverses. Still, Soviet ambitions to take over the area are in the last analysis thwarted only by the reality of an unofficial working alliance between the United States and Israel. The title of the book would of course be different, as would the chapters on the current situation; the basic early chapters about Jews, Arabs and Russians would remain essentially the same.

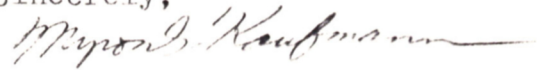
↓

2)

A primer of this kind would fill a gap and a need. The American Zionist Federation was active in pushing the earlier book. My hope is that the revised one could benefit by the co-operation of the A.Z.F. and the U.J.A., and that wide readership could make it a strong propaganda weapon on Israel's behalf.

Could you let me know your thoughts on this matter?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Myron S. Kaufmann", followed by a horizontal flourish line.

Myron S. Kaufmann