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Mass. 02143
30 April 1974

Rabbi Gorman Lamm
Yeshiva University

Dear Rabbi Lamm,

I want to let you know how much I enjoyed your articles in the May 3 Sh'ma. As one who protested the "prayer" designating the State of Israel ^{מדינת דוד} and was told "ninety-nine percent of all Torah scholars disagree with you," it is encouraging to find one of your stature and learning among the one percent. The type of thinking expounded by Rabbi Spier is indeed frightening and all too prevalent, as I have discussed. Faith is cheap for those who believe the ambiguities of history are in the process of resolution and who fail to see that ^{1871-1881 82101 7110-1881 "71-11" 720,} in some sense for ourselves and not just for our oppressors.

My only quibble with your finely reasoned and documented articles is what I discern as still a certain ~~an~~ Diaspora self-deprecation. You may yet lead your congregation out of the Diaspora, but you cannot lead them out of Diaspora. In 'N'ENAN DIN' we will stand resurrected in Israel; in the meantime it is best to acknowledge unashamedly our American citizenship & our devotion to the cause of Torah here. Just as returning to the Land is not equivalent to redemption, staying in America as a practicing Jew is not equivalent to sin. If Zionist messianism declines, I am hopeful that we shall see the emergence of a self-respecting (but not self-centered or complacent!) Diaspora.

There are indeed ting complaints against what I regard as the finest statement of a much needed theology. I hope you continue to publish & speak out along these lines. If so, you will not be without detractors nor without appreciative supporters.

Jon D. Lemon