

April 1, 1971

Rabbi Norman M. Bernhard  
23 Erlswold Way  
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Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Norman:

I occasionally get regards from you, and the reports are unanimous in praise of your efforts and achievements. I trust that you and your wife are enjoying your life in South Africa and that you are getting a feeling of *לביתך*.

What brings me to write to you now is a matter of some urgency. I am enclosing a Xerox copy of an article which was published in the Jerusalem Post concerning the Plan that I devised and which was subsequently introduced to the Knesset. The Plan is designed to benefit not only orthodox Jews but secularist Jews as well. It is non-political in nature and takes as its major interest both Shabbat and Klal Yisrael.

In several weeks the Knesset will take up the Plan. The probability is that it will be defeated this time, but if we collect enough signatures of people in the Diaspora who look favorably on the Plan, then the next time a Sabbath crisis rocks the country the Plan will be recalled and may be of some use in effecting a reconciliation.

The people who are pushing it in the Knesset have asked me urgently to get as many people as possible to sign a telegram to Golda Meir. I enclose, in addition to the Jerusalem Post article, a copy of a letter I have sent to a number of prominent Americans and a copy of the cable going to Golda.

A strong expression from people in South Africa who are known to the Israeli Government, i.e., anyone who has achieved prominence in the wider community will go a long way in helping bring the matter to the attention of Golda and to members of the Knesset,



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to whom I shall be writing and sending a list of the signatories.

My most urgent request to you, therefore, is that you speak to prominent people in the country, explain the Plan to them and solicit their consent for a cable to Golda.

Now, if you can obtain such consent by a week after Pesach I would request that you call me by phone and give me their names or else cable them into me. When that comes I will simple add them plus the cities of their residence to my cable. Otherwise, send a version of the cable on your own with their names and your name, and let me have a copy at once so that I can include mention of the cable in my letters to all members of the Knesset.

Forgive me for burdening you with this at such a busy time but this is a *mitzvah* and, especially before Passover, I do not want to be a *meikil*

My warmest regards to your wife and best wishes to all my friends in Hohnesburg, both those who have forgotten me and those who have not.

Cordially yours,

NL/hh

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

Enclosures