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22 Shevat, 5727
February 2, 1967

ב"ה

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

Dear Reb Nachum:

Enclosed is the clipping I discussed with you this morning. I did see the statement by Professor Rotensterich in Haaretz of January 22, substance of which you conveyed to me.

It is my feeling that perhaps it would be prudent to emphasize that the few laws in Israel which bring the area of personal status under religious law are certainly not responsible for restraining the aliya of "modern" Americans. Do our opponents see in the individual freedom that is characteristic of American life any positive ties on the part of Jewish intellectuals to the Jewish people? Do they possess any roots that restrain the corrosive influences of assimilation and intermarriage threatening to engulf us? Do they think that if Israeli society would liberate itself from the hallowed historic roots then this would ipso facto motivate the aliyah of those intellectuals who are so concerned with individual freedom of conscious? Do they think that a cursory knowledge of Jewish history or even the Hebrew language to be adequate to deepen the bonds of affinity and kinship with the Jewish people and its homeland, if we rend asunder the ties of religious practice which unite our people in Israel and in the Diaspora?

I leave this in your capable hands. While I realize the many pressures under which you labor, I earnestly ask that you dispatch the letter to the Jerusalem Post at your earliest convenience.
"דבר בעתו מה טוב"

I know you are at least as concerned with these issues as we all are. I also hope that you have taken care of the request for the letter from the American Friends of the Hebrew University and that you will forward it to me upon your receipt of same. Thanks a million. Regards from house to house.

Cordially yours,

Herschel
Rabbi Herschel Schacter