Prof. Shmaryahu Talmon Hebrew University Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Shmaryahu:

I trust that you and your wife are well and have spent a pleasant holiday season.

Within the next few weeks I hope to begin working on the paper that was assigned to me for the forthcoming conference in December. However, my method is to begin worrying about a month or two before I begin working.

My worry now focuses on exactly what is expected of me. I am writing to you first, in the hope that you can refresh my memory as to the contexts of our conversation in Geneva, and second to find out what you are planning so that we can possibly coordinate our efforts as to style and extent.

Now, the first question: were our papers expected to represent a consensus for both groups or just a proposal for the Jewish group? I am almost certain the answer is the latter, but I want to be sure.

Second, is this to be a scholarly paper with documentation, etc., or an attempt at phrasing a proposal that, while it may emerge from research, will in itself be rather simple and straightforward? Furthermore, about how long do you expect your paper to be?

I have not heard yet from any of our friends, either here or in Geneva as to where we are expected to meet in December, but wherever it is, I certainly look forward to renewing our friendship when we meet again.

Do let me hear from you, and please convey warmest good wishes from my wife and myself to your wife and to you.

Cordially,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

NL:EW