

September 14, 1965

Rabbi J.M. Baumol
441 Crown Street
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Rabbi Baumol:

I am returning to you the enclosed information you sent me concerning "The Israel Council for Jewish-Arab Cooperation." Needless to say, I am heartily in agreement with the aims of this group. Apparently it is meant strictly for Israelis, and rightly so. Nevertheless, all of us who are interested in the welfare of the State of Israel should enthusiastically approve the aspirations of the Council.

I think it is important that the religious leadership of the State, especially the Rabbis and heads of the Yeshivot, involve itself in this kind of work. First, it is the kind of moral endeavor which should evoke the support of the spiritual leadership of the country. Second, there is another important reason: We all hope that before long peace will be established in the entire area. While peace will solve so very many problems, it will raise new ones. Among them will be the nature for the relationship between the Jewish and Moslem populations of the State of Israel. If the religious leadership of Israeli Jewry will have already taken strong stands towards enhancing the relationships between both segments of the country, it will be able to direct the nature of these relationships in the proper channels, i.e., that of creative political, economical and social intercourse, but with full consideration for the cultural and religious integrity of both the Jewish and Arab populations. Unless such goals are built in to the philosophy of the Council it is only too easy to imagine that the problem of intermarriage will become a very serious one.

Rabbi J.M. Baumol

-2-

September 14, 1965

For moral and religious reasons, therefore, I believe the work of the Council should be supported and religious Jewry should become involved in it as soon as possible.

Cordially yours,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

NL:rl
encl.