

(N. Ans)
F. L. G. G. G.
3 Tishrei, 5732

Rabbi Norman Lamm
The Jewish Center
131 West 86th St.
New York

Dear Rabbi Lamm,

I would like in this "non-Gesher" letter (yes, I can still write them) to respond to a few points which you raised in some recent letters:

Firstly on the Kedma issue: After having read the article in Haaretz and Reuvain's response to you, and knowing the situation somewhat, I cannot help but lean toward accepting Haaretz's version. I have seen with my own eyes reckless squandering of money and find it hard to believe that financial records are kept and reviewed by Agency people monthly!!

At any rate, as you suggested I called up Kirshblum and spoke with him for a while on the phone. I told him that it is ridiculous to let the matter continue on its present course and that something decisive (I don't believe he ever heard this word before) must be done. I stressed that while you very much appreciate the importance of Kedma you too would like to see the matter resolved. And so I suggested the following: The Agency should draw up a list of conditions upon which continued support is contingent (e.g. your idea for a go board of overseers, financial records, etc.). These conditions should then be sent in writing to the Mandels together with deadlines for their implementation. Then if Reuvain fulfills the conditions, hopefully Kedma will develop into the type of place we all have envisioned for it. If he fails to meet the demands, the Agency can then justify itself before all of Kedma's friends and the Press for cutting off support. He told me that he and Pincus are supposed to be meeting with the Mandels soon and that perhaps he'll do this. I certainly hope that he does.

Now to the Rosh Chodesh Bill: I met with Yehuda Ben Meir (nee Rosenberg) M.K. this week on Gesher business and brought up the Rosh Chodesh issue. He said that presently the bill is buried in committee, a common method for snuffing out troublesome issues. The fact that Almogi opposed it means that the Government opposes it and rather than bring it up and defeat it, they seem to prefer to let it die a natural death. However, he told me confidentially that he and Zevulun are planning a thrust for the upcoming Knesset session to challenge the gov't on this practice. They will claim that thru this method the gov't hinders the Knesset from being the law-making body that it supposed to be. They will use two bills as examples: your Rosh Chodesh ~~one~~ Bill is one of them. He would not even venture a guess as to the result--but they are trying.

My best to Mindy and the family.

Yours,

Danny