

June 12, 1964

Honorable Karl Heinrich Knopstein
4645 Reservoir Rd., N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I write to you not only on my own behalf, but also on behalf of our entire membership.

Rarely has an event of public importance caused as much distress and outrage amongst our people as the failure of the West German government to do something immediate and decisive about West German scientists who are now helping Nasser and Egypt to "finish the job" that a previous German government had begun.

It is completely beyond our comprehension that a generation of government leaders who had personally witnessed the unprecedented horrors visited upon the world by the Nazis should now stand impotent, pleading helplessness in the face of a few legalisms, while allowing their own countrymen to continue to participate in the diabolical schemes to destroy the State of Israel, which is composed so largely of refugees from German Nazism.

There was a time when a number of our people have began to accept the fact that the new German government was, on the whole, a group of sincerely dedicated anti-Nazis who genuinely rued what had been done. The latest series of events, however, have pretty well disillusioned us and made us feel that to an unfortunately large extent the democratic character of the West German government is more of a public relations "image" than an authentic fact.

None of the explanations that have been forthcoming for or on behalf of the West German government are in any way convincing. I beg to remind you that we have six million reasons to be suspicious of any contrived "explanations" that fall short of the drastic measures that are morally incumbent upon your government.

Sincerely,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

NL:ff

CC: Mr. M. Stern
Rabbi S. Applbaum - RCA