

The Center For Russian Jewry

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January 6, 1967

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

Dear Rabbi Lamm,

Recent months have seen the growth of a new adult group with the same type of high devotion which distinguished the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry on the student level. A group of respected and responsible persons have come together to form the Center for Russian Jewry. Major responsibilities have been undertaken by men as varied as Elie Wiesel, the famous novelist and Mr. Melvin Stein, Legal Counsel to the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development for New York and New England.

The Center is a response to the urgent need for putting the "war" for a quarter of our people on a systematic basis. We require a much intensified publicity campaign through the media, newsletters, literature, tapes, films, on the one hand and a fully set up community guidance and service organization on the other. A wide range of activities, including public advertisements, a newsletter, important conferences and speakers training seminars, is being rapidly developed and it is in regard to these that we wish to consult with you.

Though we now have a number of committees, we have to constitute an authoritative Board of Directors who will enunciate principles and articulate policy from time to time.

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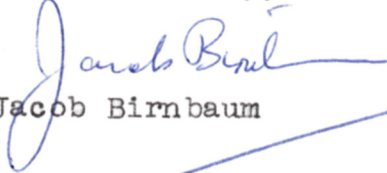
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It is for the purpose of asking you to join our Board that we are writing to you today. We are confident that our Center will become a major factor in the fight for Russian Jewry and we most earnestly hope that we may look forward to your cooperation along the lines just indicated.

The first meeting will take place in our new offices on Wednesday, January 11th at 8 P.M.

Hoping that we may hear from you at your early convenience.

Very sincerely,


Jacob Birnbaum