

Yeshiva
University - Office of the Chancellor

MEMORANDUM

To: Files
From: NORMAN LAMM
Date: November 2, 2006
Subject: [REDACTED]

I met with [REDACTED] for quite a lengthy period on November 1. Much of it was a review of his rather radical position, his tangible hatred for [REDACTED]. I told him I have no interest in adjudicating between them. I can understand his pain and his hurt, but my interest is not the past but the future -- I do not want the battle to be resumed publicly and result in a *Hillul Hashem*.

After I spoke until "blue in the face," I suggested that he should be less strict about demanding that [REDACTED] publicly apologize, etc. I told him I will try to get [REDACTED] to express his regrets at the way things have developed and his wishes that it had turned out differently, and his hopes that they can work together from now on. I asked [REDACTED] to think about it, and I noticed a tremor, a hint, a trace of possible acceptance of my suggestion.

I also know that it will be equally hard, if not more, to get [REDACTED] to agree that the hatchet must be buried, and some statement must be forthcoming from him. My suggestion was that he should write, "I am aware of all the pain and grief that has occurred because of the strife between myself and certain people at [REDACTED], and I wish it were not so. I regret that that has gone on for some months. I believe it is time for reconciliation, in which all those who have injured others by word or deed, whether intentionally or unintentionally, express regret for their actions. I certainly include myself in that category, and hope that others will, in all honesty and modesty, agree that none of us is completely innocent."

This statement, I admit, is one that I reconstructed after speaking to [REDACTED]. Then, I said that the statement by [REDACTED] should be simple: "I regret that I was involved in the controversy which has caused so much grief for our synagogue, and that many people have been hurt. From my part, I regret any responsibility that may be mine, and hope that others will do likewise."

I should wait about a week or two to hear from [REDACTED] and/or [REDACTED], if indeed they intend to call me. Then I should call or send an e-mail to [REDACTED] insisting that he set up a date where we can meet either here or elsewhere. If that can be done I will recommend one or both of the above formulations.



11/13