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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

PROGRAMME UNIT ON FAITH AND WITNESS

Dialogue with People of Living Faiths and Ideologies

Committee on the Church and the
Jewish People

9th June, 1972.

Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm
131 West 86
New York, N.Y.
U S A

Dear *plm,*

I am anxious to tell you about our visit to Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik which was - in my opinion - quite welcome. Archbishop Appleton and I myself were very much impressed by our host's spirituality and scholastic ability. We discussed many subjects. Later on Archbishop Appleton said to me that he had seldomly met somebody who was able to ask such pointed questions. We noticed his deep concern for the Middle East situation and "peace for Jerusalem".

Rabbi Soloveitchik feels that Jewish-Christian relations should be in the context of social involvement and cooperation. I expressed my agreement with this point of view and that possibly we could - in the process of this cooperation - also probe one another's motivations and biblical roots such as the biblical concept of justice as it is taught by the Prophets of Israel.

Rabbi Soloveitchik also asked about his view upon the Chief Rabbinate in Israel. This is just a brief note to you and therefore I shall not go into details regarding the Archbishop's reply. At any rate the two religious leaders seemed again to agree.

Rabbi Soloveitchik *ask* about the background of the Archbishop and me. He showed considerable interest in my having lectured to non-religious kibbutzim.

At the end of the interview the Rabbi promised his help in cases where it is needed. I believe that this really was an encounter in which either side felt able to speak freely and frankly and that this led to a considerable understanding.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

plm

Johan M. Snoek