

DRAFT OF LETTER

(to: Kolet and Jhirad in New Delhi; Mrs. Kelly in Bombay)

Dear _____:

I hope this letter finds you and your family in the very best of health.

I suppose that the weather in your part of the world during this season is quite uncomfortable, and so I am sorry to have to burden you ^{with this request} ~~at the present~~ ^{confident} ~~time~~. However, I am ~~sure~~ you will appreciate the gravity of the issue which causes me to approach you at this time.

I am sure you are acquainted with the dreadful condition of our fellow Jews behind the Iron Curtain. Russian Jewry, which numbers in the millions, is sustaining a wave of virulent anti-Semitism which is all the more pernicious because it is hypocritically denied by Soviet officials. I ^{know} ~~am sure~~ that as a responsible leader of your own Jewish community, you sense, as I do, the obligation to do whatever is possible to help our co-religionists.

I have thought of this for a long time, as I am sure many others have, and I ^{appreciate} ~~know~~ that there are no quick and easy solutions. Yet I feel strongly that ^{constructive} ~~we~~ at least something could be done towards alleviating the conditions of Russian Jewry if public opinion were aroused throughout the world.

^{believe} ~~I know~~ that ^{no doubt} ~~as~~ one who is close to the highest levels of government in India, your voice will be heard and given careful consideration.

I believe that you are in a position to do more than most ordinary Jews can. None of us dare be silent at such crucial times in our history when the lives and liberty of so many Jews are at stake. I implore you to make representations to the government to communicate directly to the Soviets their distress at what is happening.

Further, I most urgently recommend that the outstanding dignitaries of Indian cultural life be alerted to the problem. Poets, philosophers, humanitarians, writers and journalists should make their voices heard publicly. You are ^{of course} ~~no doubt~~ aware of the fact that Indian public opinion counts very much throughout the world.

I know that the task will not be easy; but neither will it be easy to avoid the adverse judgment of history if we fail to rise to the occasion. The opportunities that present themselves ~~to us~~ now may never again be given to us.

I do hope you will give this matter your most urgent, most immediate, and most serious attention. I am including a copy of an article in the "Saturday Evening Post", one of the most important American ^WWeekly ^MMagazines, the issue of June 16, 1962, as background material.

Please do be kind enough to let me know your reactions to my proposal and what procedure you have decided upon.

Sincerely,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

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