

לשכת ראש הממשלה
Prime Minister's Bureau

י"ד בכסלו תשס"ב
29 בנובמבר 2001
סימוכין : חו-פרידמן

לכבוד
הרב אברהם יעקב פרידמן

שלום רב,

הריני לאשר קבלת מכתבך מתאריך 28.11.2001 אל ראש הממשלה.

מכתבך הופנה לידיעת חגורמים המתאימים.

בברכה,



זאב שניידר
מרכז תכתובת ראש הממשלה

ABRAHAM JACOB FRIEDMAN
RABBI OF SADIGORA

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בס"ד

יג' בכסלו תשס"ב
28.11.2001

בעזה"ש"ה,

לכבוד
מר אריאל שרון
ראש ממשלת ישראל
ירושלים

מעלתכבוד ראש הממשלה שלום וברכה,

לקראת ביקורך בארה"ב אני מעביר לך בזה דו"ח שהעברתי לנשיא ארה"ב באמצעות השגריר בתל-אביב, המפרט את זכויותינו וזיקתנו של העם היהודי לארץ ישראל, - נחלת אבותינו.

כבר אמר הנביא ירמיהו "לאמור, שלום שלום ואין שלום". אני מרשה לעצמי להפנות תשומת לבך, גם אם לא נדרשתי לכך - לבעית הפליטים הערבים, שהתעוררה לאחרונה ביתר שאת. מדינת ישראל קלטת בשנים הראשונות של קיומה מעל מיליון פליטים מכל מדינות ערב, ובפרט ממצרים אירן, עירק, תימן, ארצות מגר"ב וכד'. פליטים יהודים אלו השאירו רכוש רב בארצות מוצאם, אחרו שעברו רדיפות, פוגרומים ואף הוצאה להורג בכיכרות העיר. אי לכך, על ארצות ערב, ובפרט שבע המדינות שתקפו את ישראל במלחמת השיחורור-זאת לאחר ההצבעה באומות המאוחדות על הקמת מדינת יהודים-, מוטלת עליהם החובה הפוליטית לאכלס אותם בשטחים הנרחבים שבשליטתם, דבר שיכול לחביא לפיתוח כלכלי של ארצותיהם ולחפרחת המדבריות, וכל זה בסיוע כלכלי בינלאומי. רק פתרון של שיקום הפליטים, שחזונו ע"י ארצות ערב במשך 53 שנים, יוציא את העוקץ העיקרי מן המחלוקת המתמשכת בין ישראל וארצות ערב. הזרמת תקציב בינלאומי לשיקום בעית הפליטים במקום לרשות הפלסטינאית לשימושים מפורפקים, יתרום הרבה ליצירת אווירת שלום באזור כולו.

ברור שבשעה שישראל קלטה מעל מיליון פליטים יהודים מארצות ערב, היא אינה יכולת ואינה מחויבת להחזיר אף פליט ערבי, לא מבחינה מדינית ולא מבחינה הומניטרית ולא מבחינת ייעוד המדינה כמדינת היהודים. חילופי אוכלוסין אחרי מלחמות היא תופעה החוזרת על עצמה בהיסטוריה. לדוגמא אחרי מלחמת העולם הראשונה החליפו בין 3 - 5 מיליון טורקים ויוונים את מקום מגוריהם במסגרת הסדר בו נקבעו גבולות חדשים בין שתי המדינות האלה. כמו כן היו חילופי אוכלוסין בין פולין וגרמניה ובין חודו וקשמיר.

אני מאחל לך לקראת נסיעתך הרבה כח תבונה ועמידה איתנה בדיונים בארה"ב, תוך זיקה לארץ הקדושה ששורשה בתנ"ך.

ברכה והצלחה, מחכה לשובך ולתשובתך

הרב אברהם יעקב פרידמן

אברהם יעקב פרידמן
סדיגורה

To The Honorable
Ambassador of the United States
Mr. Daniel Kurtzer
U.S.Embassy
Tel-Aviv, Israel

FAX MESSAGE

19.11.2001

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

As Rabbi of my community in Israel, USA and London, I take the liberty to submit to you, Mr. Ambassador, a memorandum, outlining the deep roots of the Jewish People to the Land of Israel. While I am sure , that many facts contained in this paper are well known, the conclusions of this report will allow a better understanding ,why the People of Israel reject and oppose any ceeding of our biblical homeland,-as evidenced in the bible- to a strange nation. On this thin area,-called Eretz Israel-,which is surrounded by about 20 Arab countries with waste unsettled territories- there is no room for a new political entity to be entrenched between Israel and Jordan.

The rebirth of the State of Israel and the Return of Jews to the Land of our forefathers beginning with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, is one of the highlights of the 3500 years old history of the Jewish people, which is deeply interwoven with the history of this Land of Israel in an almost metaphysical relationship.

I shall appreciate, Mr. Ambassador, your engagement in forwarding this Memorandum to the attention of the President of the United States of America.

Yours truly



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October 2001

THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND THE LAND OF ISRAEL

MEMORANDUM

In view of the recent serious political developments in Israel and their possible implications on the land of Israel, I would like to express my deep concern about the danger of ceding and relinquishing part of the land of Israel, which was promised to the Jewish People by Divine Providence.

Our right and title to this Land has a long history and traces back to the Creation of the Universe, as evidenced in the Bible. The first verse in the Book of Genesis says: "In the Beginning the Lord created Heaven and Earth". The most famous Jewish commentator to the Bible, Rabbi Shimon Bar Yizchak, -known as Rashi-, comments to this first verse, citing the Sages, as follows: "Why does the Bible, as book of Commandments, start the Script with the Creation of the Universe, rather than with a first Commandment?" Rashi replies to this, that, "if in the future nations of this world will challenge Israel's right to its Land, Israel will reply, that the whole Earth belongs to its Creator and He gave this Land to whom He deems it fit and He gave it to the People of Israel." Rashi's commentary to the Creation of the Universe written some 900 years ago, conveys the prophetic view, that in later generations to come, the Jewish People will return from exile to their promised Land and nations will challenge their return as conquerors. We will have then to reply to the nations what Rashi commented to the first verse of the Bible, namely, that this Land was given to the Jewish People by the Creator of the Universe and Owner of this Earth.

The first specific reference made in the Bible to the Land of Israel is in the Book of Genesis. When our Patriarch Abraham first settled in Shechem and then in Hebron, the Lord appears to him, promising him this Land to his heirs in future generations to come. (Genesis Ch:12/Verse7). Again the Lord appears to his grandson Jacob in Bet-El, conveying him the same promise made to Abraham, namely, that this Land will be given to him and his heirs to follow (Genesis Ch: 35 /Verse12).

When his son Joseph was imprisoned in Egypt, he resolved a dream of an inmate, - the cellary-master of Pharaoh, Joseph explained to him afterwards, that "he had been stolen from the Land of the HEBREWS, a reference to the Land of Israel, where he has been sold by his brothers.

Moses, the Prophet of all Prophets is not allowed by the Lord to enter the Land of Israel. However, in his last days the Lord shows him the Land of Israel and its borders from the top of Mount Nebo, as promised to the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Deuteronomy Ch:34/Verses:1-4). His successor, the Prophet Joshua will lead the People of Israel into the Promised Land, fulfilling the Divine Promise given to his ancestors.

When the Romans conquered Israel and destroyed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem about 1930 years ago, a long and dark period of exile began. Jews were dispersed into exile (Diaspora) around the globe, suffering various degrees of humiliation, prosecutions and in the last century planned mass-extirmination. However, during this tragic period of exile, Jews remained loyal to their faith, land and religion (Thora) and prayed daily for

their redemption to their Holy Land and Jerusalem. During the whole period of the Diaspora of 1900 years, Jewish communities continued to exist in places like Jerusalem, in the Galil and on the Golan Heights.

In spite of being a nation without a land for over 1900 years, Jews retained their identity and did not intermingle with other nations, they were living with, - as prophecised by the gentile Prophet Bela'am in the Book of Numeri Ch: 23/Verse 9: " Oh' a People that dwells alone". This prophecy actually defines the destiny of the Jewish people for all generations to come.

During the whole period of exile the Land of Israel was ruled by different alien conquerors ,among them -Romans, Byzanthines,Mameluks , Turks and the British. The land remained devastated, its fields did not grow fruits and none of the conquering nations did establish any roots in this holy soil. The famous Bible commentator Ramban , known as Nachmanides, who lived about 750 years ago explains this phenomen in his commentary to the Bible (Numeri Ch:26 /Verse16) "during all the period of exile, this land will not allow any foreign conquerors to set roots in its soil, although they will try to establish themselves here."

The last and most terrible chapter of the exile period was the holocaust,when one third of the Jewish people was exterminated. As the remaining survivors of the holocaust arose from the ashes of Europe , it was their iron will and vision to return to their historical homeland in Israel at any costs and reestablish our sovereignty as a free nation in the Land of Israel, where our biblical and historical rights are rooted. In 1947 the United Nations voted, in an almost unnatural political constellations, for the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine. Against all military odds and logic, Israel defended its newly established country in a miraculous fight aginst the agression of seven Arab armies. The establishment of a sovereign Israel enabled the return of millions of Jews from all over the Diaspora. Among them, holocaust survivors and almost one million Jews , who were expelled from their homes in Arab countries and found refuge in the newly established Jewish state, where they have been accomodated within a short period of time. During its 53 years of existence , the Jewish population of Israel swelled almost 9 times from a tiny community of 600 000 in 1948 to over 5 million today, as it was opening its gatesto the Jews, who were expelled from their former homelands, like the Soviet Union, Ethiopia and Iran and found safe shelter within the boundaries of the sovereign State of Israel.

Israel succeeded in creating the most flourishing economy and agriculture in the Middle East. It seems,as if the Land of Israel has welcomed its true owners and heirs in a thankful way , as the land started blooming and flourishing in an unprecedented way , after being deserted for almost 2000 years. The Return to Zion , which began in the previous century and the military liberation of Israel against all military odds and rationality is one of the biggest miracles of our time.

Two decades after Israel's birth ,during the Six Days War of 1967, Israel completed the liberationof its Land ,its Holy Places and Sites, returned to the town of its Patriarchs and united Jerusalem, the Capital of King David, as the eternal Capital of Israel.

Israel has become the spiritual centre of all Jews around the world . Even the most assimilated Jews began to feel an alignment to the Jewish nation and its holy capital Jerusalem.

However ,during the last years, we are witnessing to our great sorrow and distress a reversal of this unique historical process of Return to Zion. Israel is called upon to retreat and cede territories of our Holy Land and Holy Sites to Palestinians, who never had a foothold in this area and are suddenly claiming land , for which they have no right or title. Their claims are accompanied by waves of terror and brutal killings of innocent people - the worst Israel has known since its existence. The so-called Peace-process, which was initiated in 1993 in Oslo, has developed into a 'terror process', taking the lives of hundreds of Jews, among them Jewish mothers and their children. This process is a complete reversal of the Return to Zion , which started in the last century. The aim and destiny of the new sovereign state of Israel is not only to provide shelter for Jews prosecuted in other countries, but to protect and safeguard the lives of all Jews living in Israel, -and if necessary- to take revenge for the spilling of innocent Jewish blood.

The demand of ceding part of our Land is not only contradictory to biblical values and prophecies, but also to historic logic. There is no precedence case , that a victorious nation is yielding vital territories to the defeated nation , which started the war. Two terrible World Wars of the last century have completely changed the map of Europe , as the defeated Germany had to relinquish and cede its territories and colonies to the victorious Allies , Poland and Russia forever. After World War II , some 11 million refugees and displaced persons were spread all over Europe. All of them have been resettled within few years in their new homes in new areas. Another example is the Gulf War of 1991, which caused a stream of some half -million refugees , mainly Palestinians, fleeing from Kuwait and Iraq to other Arab states. Today , there is no trace left of these refugees .

Only the Palestinian refugees from 1948 War of Independence are intentionally being held as political hostages in refugee camps until today. 22 Arab states with their vast land and economic resources refuse to absorb and accomodate - even with international assistance- their brother refugees 53 years after the end of the war, while Israel has absorbed at the same time over one million Jewish refugees evicted from Arab states , within its first years of existence. They have left behind in their native countries Jewish property , valued today at about \$ 30 billion , which was nationalized by the respective Arab governments. Not a single \$ was spent for the accomodation of the Palestinian refugees of the 1948 war, when Israel was attacked by seven Arab States on its first day of Independence.

After so many war-torn years, Israel naturally wants to live and develop in peace.' Peace ' is an important blessing. The Bible promises to reward Israel for their obeyance of the Commandments with various blessings, among them also with peace (Leviticus Ch. 25 / Vers 6) : ' And I will give Peace to your Land and you will settle without fear.' But this blessing has no resemblance to our day-to-day life in Israel. Since the inception of the so-called Peace-Process, the atmosphere in our Holy Land is poisoned with hate, violence, terror and brutal killings and has put life and existence of Israel and its citizens into hazardous conditions.

But most important, Peace is not a substitute for our Right to our land. President Woodrow Wilson , in declaring war on Germany in April 1917 , justified Americas entrance into the war in his speech before the American Nation : ' Right is more precious than Peace'. In this spirit, Israel will defend its historical rights to its biblical land and will fulfill its basic duty as a sovereign state , to protect the life and blood of all its citizens by all means, which for generations were at the mercy of alien nations.



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