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Gould, Donald. 1976.

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SPECIALTIES OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

Box 5123
Computer Park East

Albany, New York 12205
(518) 458-9246

January 28, 1976

Mr. Herbert A. Friedman
15 Ibn Gabirol Street
Jerusalem, Israel 92430

Dear Herb:

I know that you were in the States for a while to, among other things, work for the UJA. I am sorry that somehow our paths didn't cross because there are some things I would like to talk to you about.

My Mother said that she saw you and spoke with you for a few minutes in Miami and during a recent telephone conversation with my son in Israel, he told me that he saw you while he was working as a counselor on the UJA Family Mission last December.

Last week I tried to reach you when I found out that you were staying at the Warwick Hotel, but when I called, you had already left. If you are planning to return to the States in the near future, please let me know of your planned itinerary so that somehow we can get together.

I might also tell you that I will be attending the National Conference on Soviet Jewry in Brussels February 15-19 and if you plan to be there perhaps we can get together at that time. I am also planning to come to Israel with the rest of my family for the Passover holiday. If we can't get together sooner, perhaps we can at that time. Meanwhile, let me mention a general area that I would like to discuss with you when we get together in person.

I was asked a couple of months ago by Sam Kadison to become the Vice Chairman of the newly formed National Aliyah Council. I accepted the responsibility for several reasons. (1) I personally believe that Western Aliyah, in particular, has to become a top priority for American Jewry and (2) If you don't mind my candor, the comparative failure of Western Aliyah is the fault both of American Jewry, and the way it is handled here, and also of the establishment in Israel and its method of handling Aliyah. I believe the whole thing has to be re-organized immediately in order to get the job done and I am hopeful that the National Aliyah Council can become a vehicle for creating the necessary changes. It is difficult for me, in a letter, to outline the whole thing.



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Mr. Herbert Friedman

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I think the timing now is particularly good because the crises of the situation has made the establishment both here and in Israel aware of the fact that they have not succeeded thus far and hopefully made them more open to new ideas. It is many of these new ideas and also the vehicles for activating new ideas that I really would like to discuss with you.

I am not doing this instead of my UJA work, I am doing this in addition to it. I am sure you are aware, however, that the load that I carry as past Chairman with the UJA Young Leadership Cabinet is not as large as when I was Chairman.

I have yet another motivation and that is that my family and I plan to make Aliyah. Some of my initial thinking is that I want to put some of our Young Leadership people who are also thinking about Aliyah on the Council. Besides that, I believe that there are certain people in Israel that could be very helpful on the council, yourself included.

These are some of my thoughts and I have given you some of my schedule and I hope to hear from you in reference to the above and also in reference to your schedule so that we can get together.

If you ever have a chance, my son, Michael, is at Haifa University and I am sure he would love to hear from you.

Shalom, lehitraot,

Donald S. Gould

DSG/asm

February 12, 1976

Mr. Donald S. Gould
Research Supplies Pharmaceutical Corporation
Box 5123
Computer Park East
Albany
New York, 12205
U.S.A.

Dear Don:

Yesterday received your letter of 28 January. Our mail is slow. You probably won't get this reply until after you return from Brussels. I hope that meeting will be interesting for you, but I haven't heard any plans for it which would lead me to believe that it will have the slightest effect on the Russians. It will just be a meeting for making speeches.

I think there are basically only two solutions for getting the Jews out of Russia, openly and in large numbers without harassment:

- a. Massive Jewish (and anybody else who will join us) attack against Russia in the media as being a fascist dictatorship which does not permit freedom of movement, in spite of having promised to do so at Helsinki; or
- b. Public offer to pay any price the Russians demand.

As for your ideas regarding aliyah from America, I don't really know anything about the newly formed National Aliyah Council. What is its structure? Who are its officers? How does it intend to work? What does Sam Kadison have to do with it? Not knowing anything, I can't really comment.

I can only tell you my own general concepts:

1. I do not think the present system of the Jewish Agency can produce aliyah from the United States in any reasonably large numbers.
2. I think the present complicated set-up, as between the Government and the Agency, also acts as a deterrent to aliyah.
3. I think that the major Zionist organizations in America have discredited themselves from working on aliyah, after ~~their~~ long years of opposition to it.
4. I think the matter of aliyah should be removed from both Israeli and U.S. Zionist hands, and should be given up to an American organization which should be created in conjunction with the Federations. I visualize a national organization with local chapters formed in each federated community, run along UJA lines, i.e. - taking its own initiative, but getting local support and commitment. Each local aliyah committee would have a quota of bodies to produce, just as a local campaign committee has a quota of dollars to produce.

I am delighted to hear you are thinking of making aliyah personally, but let's discuss it in greater detail when you come at Pesach, because I wouldn't want to see you make any mistakes. Our kids are out of school from April 6-24 and we plan to be in Caesarea during that period.

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You should arrange that your schedule is flexible enough to give me a whole day in Caesarea during that period. Then I will be able to talk to you both about the general subject and your personal plans.

As for Michael, I will call him at Haifa and see how he is doing.

As ever,

