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Paul

DICKINSON, THROCKMORTON, PARKER, MANNHEIMER & RAIFE

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1600 FINANCIAL CENTER

DES MOINES, IOWA 50309

AREA CODE 515
TELEPHONE 244-2600

L. CALL DICKINSON (1905-1974)
ROBERT B. THROCKMORTON
ADDISON M. PARKER
ROBERT E. MANNHEIMER
JOHN H. RAIFE
JOHN R. MACKAMAN
L. CALL DICKINSON, JR.
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BARBARA G. BARRETT

July 30, 1979

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
Interreligious Affairs Department
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Marc:

First of all, let me say how much I enjoyed meeting you here in Des Moines and having a chance to talk over with you some of the problems which our Community is facing, as well as some of the problems of national importance. I believe your visit was most effective, not only the press conference but the breakfast meeting with Bishop Dingman and the others. As some evidence of this, if you have not already seen it, I enclose a copy of the article which appeared in the Des Moines Register on Monday, July 16. Other than the fact that they misspelled your name, I believe it is an excellent article.

There is one matter to which I have given considerable thought the last few years, and about which I would be glad to have your opinion. It has seemed to me that we might avoid some of the problems we are having with such organizations as the United Nations (the Zionism-Racism Resolution), if we would get away from the wholesale use of the word Zionism. I realize that there are still Zionist organizations, and that as a matter of fact one has recently been formed within the Reform movement. I also realize that this approach would be hard to sell, but it seems to me to have some merit.

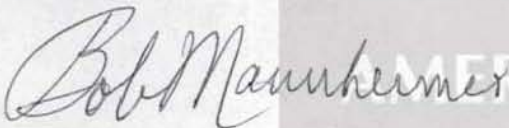
What I mean is that with the establishment of the State of Israel, the objective of Zionism has been accomplished. If we could concentrate more on the humanitarian aspects of the problems, and speak of the religious aspects in terms other than the terminology of Zionism, perhaps we could create a less emotional and hysterical atmosphere in which to discuss the problems of Israel and the international Jewish Community. It might also tend to make the Christian and other segments of the non-Jewish Community think more in terms of Israel as

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an accomplished fact rather than a State the Zionists are still trying to establish, thus changing the psychological tenor of the discussion.

What do you think about all these ramblings? Meanwhile, my best regards, and continued success in your efforts as Interreligious Affairs Chairman of the American Jewish Committee. I hope we will have the opportunity to meet again before too long.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Mannheimer

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Enclosure

