Elkana

מוסד ון ליר בירושלים

THE VAN LEER JERUSALEM FOUNDATION

AIRMAIL/EXPRESS

August 4, 1974

Professor Robert K. Merton
Professor Joshua Lederberg
California, U. S. A.

Dear Bob ,
Dear Josh ,

While slowly planning a long, loving and descriptive letter to you (plural) about our return and about what we found here, a sudden issue has emerged yesterday which forces me to write urgently on this one point.

The Minister of Defence, Mr. Shimon Peres has asked Professor Harkabi to stay on for a year both as his personal advisor on strategic matters and as a central organizer of channelling the best available minds in the country towards the various possibilities and alternatives of peace talks in the Middle East. Harkabi, on his part, asked my advice whether to accept this and if so, my help and cooperation in the non-military parts of the job. My advise was an unconditional acceptance considering the state in which the country is and about which I will tell you much more in my detailed letter. For him it is a personal sacrifice of a unique magnitude. All packed; having sold his car and rented his flat; looking forward to an intellectually glorious year; it was the first time that since his late entrance into academic life (he was head of the Israeli army intelligence service until about ten years ago) that he was looking forward to a real break and a somewhat easier life. Please, if you can, do your best to advise the Center to keep his invitation open for the time when he has finished his job.

Needless to say, Professor Harkabi has immediately written to Met. Mr. Peres has sent him a telegraph and naturally I am writing him too. I hope that by asking this favor I have not transgressed the boundaries of our friendship.

With very warm regards.

Your

Yehuda

43 JABOTINSKY STREET, JERUSALEM P.O.B 4070 PHONE 67131 רחוב ז'בוטינסקי 43, ירושלים ת"ד 4070 טל.