

Lwow, 5 August 1939
8 Ziemialkowski St.

Dr Marian Reich
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[1/1] My Dear Professor!

[1/2] In my response to your letter Sir¹, [1/3] from the 27th of the previous month, regarding the matter of our project for Jewish agricultural emigration [1/4] to Canada, I have the pleasure of relating the following:

[1/5] 1) You hit it right on the button Sir about [1/6] this whole action, specifically, in basing the whole matter upon [1/7] a lucrative private enterprise, however, [1/8] the nature of the enterprise requires that our approach be [1/9] eminently public.²

[1/10] 2) Regarding increasing the company's assets [1/11], there are only two possibilities, about which you, [1/12] Sir Professor³, so deftly write, and so it'll either be [1/13] the sale of land for profit with long-term payments, or maybe, [1/14] a corporation that would rent this land out at [1/15] an annual rate for several years, from this rent [1/16] the company would cover its expenses and pay dividends.

[1/17] Whichever one of these forms will come to fruition [1/18] depends greatly on the Canadian immigration authorities. [1/19] Surveying the attitudes of the Canadian immigration officials [1/20] regarding these matters, is one of the main goals [1/21] of our projected trip to Canada.

[1/22] Besides this we would like study in Canada [1/23] the economic, climactic and environmental conditions.

[1/24] 3) When it comes to Jewish financial spheres [1/25] in the USA that will back this action, we understand [1/26] that in emotional moments it will be a social welfare undertaking, but [1/27] in others it will be marked with cold calculation.

[1/28] Because of this, we don't intend to appeal [1/29] to feelings, either way, our main pressure will be applied to [1/30] calculation.

¹ This first sentence contains a lot of formal addresses that are typical in correspondences between Polish intellectuals, but are not readily translatable into English.

² The meaning here is not entirely clear. It could either mean 'public', as in open to public scrutiny, or 'social', as in social services.

³ Here is another instance where the formal language breaks down into absurdity when translated, and therefore we have to resort to the word 'Sir', which is probably the most formal type of address in English.

[1/31] 4) For a moment I'd like to, My Dear Professor Sir⁴, [1/32] to turn your attention to this, because even though the matter looks insignificant, it [1/33] might have a key influence.

[1/34] I'm sure that you know, Sir, [1/35-6] that an anti-Masonic measure passed in Poland.

[1/37] B'nai-B'rith was, unfortunately, recognized

[2/1] as a Masonic breeding ground and was, in my opinion, unjustifiably dismantled.

[2/2] It is true that, that all action [2/3] connected to institutions [2/4] that are pseudo-Masonic would complicate our standing in Poland [2/5] incredibly because the anti-Semitic press would drum [2/6] it up as a purely Masonic affair.

[2/7] In consequence I'd like to ask you [2/8] Sir to contact the persons I've written about [2/9] and win them over to our cause— [2/10-11] with the stipulation that they would be a part of this undertaking as private individuals and not as members of other, specific, organizations.

[2/12] I assume that that I quite clearly [2/13] expressed myself, and no misunderstandings will arise.

[2/14] 5) Finally, concerning my proposal to visit New-York [2/15] on my way to Canada; it's true that, at the end of September⁵ [2/16] I am embarking on a voyage, but I cannot precisely designate the day, [2/17] because I have a whole slew of things to do in Poland [2/18] and the date of my departure depends upon them.

[2/19] I anticipate, since I will [2/20] be in the USA, or at least in Canada, I will have the opportunity to personally [2/21] see you Sir, because [2/22] I assume that you will spend your [2/23] vacation somewhere in the USA as well, and besides, our encounter doesn't [2/24] have to take place in New York.

[2/25] With this I end the letter. Sir, I would like [2/26] to thank you sincerely for your [2/27] interest in this undertaking. I will take this opportunity to [2/28] send you sincere bows⁶ and words of deepest respect.

⁴ This comment is not meant to be ironic. The original is even more elaborate in its formalities, yet no irony is implied.

⁵ When he was making his plans Mr. Reich could not factor into his plans the fact that his tentative date came after the start of the Second World War. It is unclear whether any elements of this program to help out Polish Jews came to fruition in light of what transpired just weeks after the letter was sent.

⁶ This is a normal, uncontrived, gesture used by many Poles to this day.

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