

B H2 130/W

Jerusalem, 21 May 1981

Mr. Bayard Rustin  
Director, BASIC  
260 Park Avenue South  
New York, N.Y. 10010

Dear Mr. Rustin:

I have just received the thoughtful report issued by the delegation BASIC and the A. Philip Randolph Education Fund sent to Israel under your leadership to examine the situation and problems of the Black Hebrew Community.

I appreciate the balanced and careful approach of the Report and its chief conclusion, that the working out by the Israel Government of a clear policy is essential. It is gratifying to note your denial that official racism exists in Israel, while your recommendations for the treatment of Blacks at Lod Airport should surely be given consideration. On the other hand, it is difficult to see how any changes in Government policy can be effected unless the Black Hebrew Community cooperates fully with the Israeli authorities along the lines suggested in your General Recommendations.

I hope with you for a satisfactory solution to the vexed problem, and I should like to send my greetings to you and the other members of the delegation whom I had the pleasure of meeting.

Sincerely,

Yitzhak Navon