

January 13, 1982

His Excellency
Menachem Begin
Prime Minister of the
State of Israel
Jerusalem

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I read with interest your letter of November 18, concerning the status of the Ethiopian Jews called Falashas. As you know, we are deeply committed to assisting suffering Jewish communities everywhere in the world. This concern includes the Falashas.

We have briefed Foreign Minister Shamir on President Nimeiri's visit to the United States in November. During our briefing with Mr. Shamir, we outlined why we felt it might jeopardize future movement of Falashas to raise the issue with President Nimeiri.

We wish to do whatever we can to assist the Falashas, and will continue to monitor this situation carefully. Please be assured that freedom of emigration for Jewish minorities everywhere remains a goal of this Administration.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ronald Reagan