

Jerusalem, 6 Tevet 5731  
3 January 1971

No. 877 (215.15.5)

Secret

To: Mr. Shabtai Rosenne, UN Permanent Representative, New York  
From: Deputy Director of UN Department, A.

Re: The International League for Human Rights and its affiliation with Israeli human rights bodies  
Your letter 804 of December 7, 1970.

a. Dinstein's institute

Mr. John Carey wrote to Dr. Yoram Dinstein about your meeting in early December, and expressed his hope for the establishment of a human rights institute in Israel that could be affiliated with the International League for Human Rights. As for the Israeli League currently connected to the international league, Mr. Carey notes in the letter that he had understood from Mr. Uri Davis that half the members of the league are communists, and "naturally, communists are not the most honest advocates of human rights".

Dr. Dinstein notified us that he sent (Carey) an enthusiastic response letter, but was not expecting much given the absence of a suitable institution. Please note that Yoram Dinstein's initiative is along the lines of an "institute", that is an academic, not a public, body. In any event, we plan to meet with Dinstein soon (at the end of the trimester) and see what can be promoted through him.

b. The Association (Pevzner's association).

I asked Adv. Yeshayahu Pevzner, from Tel Aviv, chair of the Israeli Association for Human Rights whether his association could ask to affiliate with the international league in New York, in addition to its affiliation with the International Federation for Human Rights headquartered in Paris. Pevzner explained to me that, procedurally, there is no impediment to doing so, (the Austrian league, for instance, is affiliated with both Paris and New York); however, there is latent rivalry between the Paris federation and the New York league (note that the Parisian organization is considered left-wing and radical, while the New York organization is the conservative right wing one). Since he, Pevzner, is a vice-president of the Parisian federation, he does not feel comfortable initiating contact with the New York league; though he will start sending it material produced by the association (for instance, petitions regarding USSR Jewry), in the hopes that the New York league replies or responds in some way, which might lead to correspondence that could naturally evolve into affiliation at a more advanced stage.

This route does seem logical. The question is to what extent it would actually materialize. Pevzner's association seems to lack momentum. On another plane, we are thinking of ways to make it stronger, by having more dynamic forces join (for instance, by establishing a section in Jerusalem, or through some connection to Dinstein's institute).

c. The (Shahak-Davis) league

In the interim, we have consulted on this issue with the deputy executive director and a suggestion was made to try to induce a “putsch” in the Israeli league through the insertion of positive figures and “restoration” of the responsible elements in the league, which were removed by Matzpen and Rakah elements and the Shahak-Davis group (as described in the review the English translation of which was attached to my letter to you, 500, of August 28, 1970).

I personally do not believe in such an option (and in my view, the league should, in fact, be isolated outside the Israeli public sphere); but I did undertake to consult on the matter with the author of said report.

Sincerely,  
[signed]  
Z. Neeman

CC: Mr. A. Luria, Deputy Executive Director  
Mr. T. Meron, Legal Advisor  
Mr. A. Yafo, Europe A.  
Mr. Y. Shefi, Deputy Director of Public Diplomacy