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ראש הממשלה  
THE PRIME MINISTER

Jerusalem, Israel.  
2 October 1956.  
7691

Dear Mr. Blaustein,

I hear from Ambassador Eban that you are worried by some of my articles and speeches. I fully understand your concern. While there are - and perhaps must be - certain differences in our philosophy and outlook on Jewish history and Jewish unity throughout the world, there is at least one view (it is not of course the only one) that we share in common. I tried to express it in the speech I made when I welcomed you to our country in August 1950. May I now repeat what I said then?

"The Jews of the United States, as a community and as individuals, have only one political attachment, and that is to the United States of America. They owe no political allegiance to Israel. In the first statement which the Representative of Israel made before the United Nations after her admission to that international organisation, he clearly stated, without any reservation, that the State of Israel represents and speaks only on behalf of its own citizens, and in no way presumes to represent or speak in the name of the Jews who are citizens of any other country. We, the people of Israel, have no desire and no intention to interfere in any way with the internal affairs of Jewish communities abroad."

In confirming what I then said, I think I need not repeat that I am myself an unrepentant Zionist - a Zionist, perhaps, of a kind entirely different from many of those you know. For me,

/Zionism

Mr. Jacob Blaustein,  
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Baltimore 3, Md.,  
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The American Jewish Committee  
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Zionism means to live in Israel, and personally to build there our new Jewish independent life, based on the teachings of our Prophets and on the conquests in science and technology achieved in the modern world.

But other Zionists are entitled to their own interpretations of Zionism, just as Jews in different countries (and even in the same one) are free to hold varying views on what constitutes Jewishness.

As democrats we can all agree, in the most friendly way, to differ on some points, while rejoicing in the many others on which we are in complete agreement.

Yours sincerely,

D. Ben-Gurion