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ברוקלין, נ. י.

By the Grace of G-d
11th of Kislev, 5735
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr. Reuven Dovid Kimball
1537 Main St.
Springfield, Mass. 01103

Greeting and Blessing:

Your letter of the 22nd of Cheshvan reached me with some delay, and this is the first opportunity for me to acknowledge it.

Following the order of your letter, I wish to extend here my prayerful wishes that your wife Tzivia Devorah should have a normal and complete pregnancy, as well as a normal delivery of a healthy offspring in a good and auspicious hour.

With regard to the business venture about which you write, it is clear that the general conditions which affect the problem, as well as those specific ones that you mention in your letter, are of a nature which change from time to time. Indeed, as you write, this is also the reason that caused the problem of financing. At any rate, it seems at this moment that the next step does not depend on you, as you don't seem to have any options to choose from.

The only suggestion I can make to you is one that may appear mystical, but it has been borne out by experience and proved quite practical. I have in mind the idea that when a Jew strengthens his bond with the Source of wisdom, which is in G-d, he gains wisdom and understanding also in mundane affairs, which helps him to decide what to do and what not to do in matters of business and the like.

Needless to say, by strengthening one's bonds with the Source of true wisdom and understanding, is meant the actual observance of the Mitzvoth which G-d set forth in His Torah, of which it is written, "This is your wisdom and understanding in the sight of all the nations."

As mentioned above, the advice that you should make an effort to strengthen your commitment and actual fulfillment of the Mitzvoth, which will also help you make the proper decisions, is at first glance of a mystical nature. But looking at it from a practical point of view, we know that in everything else the important thing is the actual results which a certain measure brings about. If experience shows that doing such and such a thing brings such and such results in the vast majority of cases, then it is not so important whether one understands how and why those results are caused, for the important thing is the result itself.

The same applies also to Jews and their commitment to the Torah and Mitzvot throughout the ages. Our long history has borne out the fact that the well-being of the Jewish people, as well as of the Jew as an individual, is intimately connected with his observance of the Torah and Mitzvot in the daily life. And although the Torah and Mitzvot should be observed for their own sake, as the commands of our Creator, it has been revealed that the Torah and Mitzvot are also the channels and vessels to receive G-d's blessings for Hatzlocho in the material aspects of life.

May G-d, whose benevolent Providence extends to each and everyone individually, grant you the wisdom to make the right decisions, and to have Hatzlocho in all above.

With blessing,

M. Schneerson

P.S. Noting that you are an attorney at law, I would like to add a point that is no doubt quite familiar to you. This is that in matters of a legal suit, the best and weightiest legal argument is when one can cite precedents of judgment in similar cases, and there is ~~even~~ no need to substantiate the judgment further since the judgment speaks for itself. and explain the reasons for

PP.S/. Regarding the project in Nicaragua in general - in light of the world economic and political situation, it does not appear to be a practicable and realistic project in the near future.

Mr. Jeffrey Kimball, a lawyer and an active member of the Lubavitch community in Springfield, Mass., weighed the offer. Although it was no small investment, the profits seemed so secure that the banks had offered to lend him the 15 million dollars required without guarantors. Nevertheless, Mr. Kimball valued the Rebbe's advice. Before signing the contract, he asked for a blessing.

The Rebbe's reply consisted of two lengthy pages discussing the importance of adhering to a Torah lifestyle. "A Jew who fulfills G-d's commandments," the Rebbe wrote, will merit Divine blessings for success in all his endeavors. At the bottom of the letter, after his signature, the Rebbe added a postscript: "Regarding the business offer — it is not advisable."

Mr. Kimball had his answer. Now it was his associates' turn to ponder. How could he possibly turn down such a sound enterprise? Despite their insistence, Mr. Kimball trusted the Rebbe and did not make the investment.

Two years later, the soundness of the Rebbe's reply became openly apparent. Mr. Kimball had been asked to make a long-term investment in Nicaragua. Despite the country's previous stability, its government had been overthrown by Communist rebels and many foreign investments were nationalized.