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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written to support the effort by Reuven HaLevi Applebaum to create a fitting memorial on the grounds of the Wohl Rose Park in the Japanese section of Garden of Nations in Jerusalem for Japanese Consul Chiune Sugihara who, while he was assigned to Kaunas, Lithuania, in July and August 1940, wrote transit visas to Japan for Jewish refugees who were fleeing from the Nazis. This humanitarian gesture – taken contrary to instructions sent to him from Tokyo – saved my life, the lives of my parents, and the lives of thousands of Jewish victims of persecution.

I met Mr. Applebaum in Jerusalem at our home in Kfar David, where he is also serving as a gardener to various residents. He described his proposed project to me, and I enthusiastically endorse it. It is very important that future generations recognize the enormous benefit that Consul Sugihara conferred on the Jewish people. Because of Consul Sugihara's willingness to do what is right regardless of the instructions of his superiors, there are now as many as 60,000 or more descendants of Jews who would have been murdered by the Nazis if not for their escape to Japan. I am among this fortunate number because I was 4 years old when he wrote the Japanese transit visa on my parents' "Leidimas" (the Latvian travel document that has my photograph) on July 22, 1940.

My mother, of blessed memory, was the former Dutch citizen who approached the official representatives of the Netherlands and first received the written endorsement of Jan Zwartendijk, the Dutch Consul in Kaunas, that no visa was needed to enter Curacao or Surinam in the Dutch West Indies. Consul Sugihara used this statement on a fleeing Jew's travel document as the basis for issuing more than 1200 transit visas through Japan, although he knew that the Jewish refugees were not truly intending to travel to Curacao or Surinam. Consul Sugihara knew that the Jews applying for his transit visa were facing death at the hands of the Nazis, and his motive was to save their lives.

LEWIN & LEWIN LLP

Consequently, I endorse the proposed Sugihara memorial in Jerusalem and urge readers of this letter to assist Mr. Applebaum in realizing his dream of having a Sugihara memorial garden. He informs me that his project has already been approved by authorities at Jerusalem's City Hall and that he has the total support of the Embassy of Japan.

Sincerely yours,



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Madarame San:

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Sam Zell:

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