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8, Hurst Close,
London NW11 7BE

9th February, 1993

John Tiplady Esq.,
Chairman,
Planning Committee,
London Borough of Barnet,
The Town Hall,
The Burroughs,
London NW4 4BG

Dear Mr. Tiplady,

I read with great interest an article in last weekend's issue of the "Economist" which, in a discussion of the proposed "Eruv", pointed out that your Committee will be considering the application for planning permission on 24th February.

I have not previously taken part in the debate as I have assumed that good sense, after full discussion, would prevail but I feel that, as a resident of Hampstead Garden Suburb, I should bring to your attention, some facts which should cause you to be concerned about the accuracy, and relevance, of some of the representations being made to persuade Hurst Close residents to sign the 'anti Eruv' petition.

I have to tell you that the residents of this Close have been approached over the weekend and persuaded to sign the petition by persons who are talking in terms of the number of poles to be erected being somewhat in excess of 300.

At the same time it is being suggested to us that the application should not be considered in its present religious context but rather as a precedent for the potential application by another minority community, such as the Moslem or Hindu communities. This is, as I am sure you will appreciate, a rather contrived attempt to introduce one form of prejudice to hide another. I hope you will realise that local concern should not be the occasion for the manipulation of anxiety and treat the validity of the petition accordingly.

It is sad that the whole matter could not have been sorted out without public debate, much of which seems ill-informed but that is the nature of democracy. On that point let me leave you with the thought

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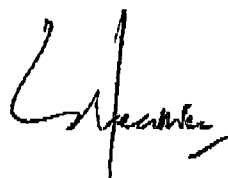
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that the quality of our democracy is to be judged by the respect it shows to its minorities; and to say how strange it is that such burdens should be placed upon your Committee.

I understand that Councillor Frank Davies is the representative of Hampstead Garden Suburb Ward on your Committee and as a courtesy I am proposing to send him a copy of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C.A. Feather', with a stylized, cursive script.

C.A. Feather

c.c. Councillor Frank Davies