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ק"ק יעקב העשירי

Office of the Haham

of the

Spanish & Portuguese Jews

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12 Heshvan 57 24

30th October 19 63

Dr. Samson R. Weiss,
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America,
84 Fifth Avenue,
New York 11, N.Y.,
United States of America.

My dear Dr. Weiss,

I am in receipt of your letter as well as the enclosures
of Rabbi Gotthold.

As I wrote to you in my previous letter, I felt that many
of the accusations made against Rabbi Gotthold were not justified.
I have known him for some time and he always left a very good
impression on me. There is no doubt that the man was let down, not
only because nobody was to be found to go with him from England, but
also because the other Rabbi who was to accompany him from Israel
refused to go at the last moment. I think that is something that
ought to be put right before any other delegation goes to India.
In my opinion, it was unpardonable for the Rabbi who had promised
to go from Israel to try and back out at the last moment, and it was
because that Rabbi refused to go that Dayan Grossnass also refused
to allow any Rabbi from the Beth Din to accompany Rabbi Gotthold
and thus make his task easier.

The task seems to be very complicated in Bombay, and I cannot
see any young Rabbi who would undertake such an arduous duty. After
all, you would need a man of great Halachic knowledge, as well as a
man who has initiative and who can undertake responsibility. Rabbi
Gotthold, with all his experience, encountered so many difficulties,
and in many ways had to act against the opposition of those who were

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Dr. Samson R. Weiss,
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intended to help him.

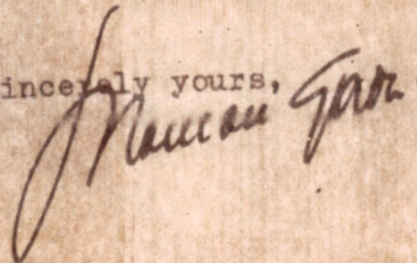
I must also say that the ruling which I gave some time ago was given in the knowledge that there was no rabbinic authority in Bombay. Once Rabbi Gotthold was there, certainly my ruling had to be explained in quite a different way. Once again, I repeat I have full faith in Rabbi Gotthold and in view of the fact that he was not given the support to which he was entitled, I think he has done a remarkably good job. I also feel that no young Rabbi is available, at least in Britain, who could go and deal with the problems in Bombay. I am just wondering whether it would not be possible to find somebody in the United States. After all, there must be some young Sephardi Rabbis in the Yeshivot of Lakewood and other places who ought to be prepared to undertake this great responsibility.

You probably know that I may be coming to New York in the near future. In such a case, perhaps, I could see some of the younger people who are ready to go to India, if they are at all available.

Please give my best wishes to Mr. Feuerstein, and with kindest regards to you and your family,

I am,

Sincerely yours,



P.S. I have just received your report on South Africa, but I have not yet been able to read it. As soon as I have done so, I will be writing to you again.