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*m. Cohen - 6/21/62*

THE JEWISH AGENCY  
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India

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25 September 1962

Rabbi N. Lamm,  
The Jewish Center  
131 West 86th Street,  
NEW YORK 24, N.Y.  
U.S.A.

E X C E R P T

As I wrote to you when I was last in Israel, I discussed the position here with Dr. Warhaftig, the Minister of Religions, who agreed to send a rabbi immediately to deal with divorces, conversions, etc. At the beginning of this month, we received cables to the effect that Rabbi Chugi Abudi, the Av Beth Din of Jerusalem, was being sent here for six weeks. After a Series of cables, the proposed 'schlichut' was cancelled for the following reasons.

1. The tense situation here as a result of marriage difficulties for the Bene-Israels in Israel.
2. He is a Iraqi - not a very wise choice.
3. I had not collected all the documentation regarding all the cases pending.

After considering the whole project, I have suggested to Dr. Warhaftig that it may be advisable to arrange for a rabbi from London or America to come here to deal with the above-mentioned problems. For an Israeli to come, it would be interpreted by a rather voluble opposition as Israeli directive and probably take on a political tinge. I am of the opinion that the above selection would be an English rabbi since India is part of the Commonwealth, whereas I have my serious doubts if a rabbi from America belonging - as he must do - to one of the trends would be acceptable by all sections of the community here. However, if a rabbi from the Orthodox Union would come to India to serve the community for a period of one or two years, I have little doubt that within a short period of time, we could influence the Conservative and Reform groups to accept his rulings on these problems which are causing so much difficulties.

THE ABOVE WAS SIGNED BY ISRAEL KELMAN.  
DIRECTOR



*call Rabbi Pelcovitz  
if this has possibilities  
A MF*

*10-4  
Rabbi Lamm  
Rabbi Pelcovitz  
told me last night the  
Iggud has available  
men. Could one be  
used for this?*

SE: FA 7-0518  
RSS: FA 71585