

# Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of India

C/o Magen Hasidim Synagogue,

8, Morland Road,

**BOMBAY. - 11, INDIA.**

*Dated* JUNE 23, 1961.

Dear Rabbi,

I acknowledge with thanks your kind communications of June 4, 8 and 15, 1961. I have not heard from Mr. Dudley Feit yet, but my colleagues and I would be only too pleased to meet with the Feits and show them round.

The 'affair' in Israel has had tremendous reaction in India, especially Bombay and our Editor, whom we had given a free hand as far as Editorials are concerned, has become a bit too bitter about the issue and I sincerely hope, it does not cost us the loss of a few friends.

I received a letter the other day from Samuel in Israel and he writes to say that the temporary residence Visa, issued by the Consulate in India, has not yet been extended or renewed. He could not be given much money, when he left Bombay. I hope he is allowed some pocket allowance by the University, for various small things, he might need and are not supplied there. I wonder if I can request Rabbi Gotthold about it, when I write to him next.

██████ tells me that he has forwarded the application for admission to you for onward transmission to the Yeshiva University. I shall be grateful to have advance intimation about the acceptance or otherwise by the University.

Dr. Weiss sent us a detailed letter about financial matters and the various publications, he has arranged to mail to us. We shall try to use them to the best advantage possible. A copy of our letter to Dr. Weiss is enclosed for your information. Could you kindly inform him that a Hazan has been appointed at the Panvel Synagogue on an initial salary of Rs.70/- P.M., since we wrote to him.

A copy of Dr. Tartakower's letter to Mr. B.B. Benjamin has been published in 'Mebasser' (mailed to you separately) solely for political ends. This copy was sent to us by Dr. Tartakower with a request that we offer our comments on the suggestion by Chief Rabbi Nissim. Copy of our reply is enclosed. If Dr. Tartakower writes to you or the UOJCA, as suggested

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by us, we shall appreciate it very much, if a quick settlement, regarding the deputing of a Rabbi is arrived at.

There is another matter in which I request your indulgence and personal advice. Mr. E.E. Jhirad of New Delhi has given us a donation of Rs.500/- for the secular education of poor children especially from the villages. We expect to collect a little more in this fund, but from the little I have seen of the plight of our people in the villages, our efforts will be just a drop in the ocean. There are over a hundred villages and the number of families vary from 50 to 3 per village. In some villages education upto High School standard is imparted. In the other, only upto the Primary (VII Standard Vernacular). In Alibag, recently, an Arts and Science college has been set up. I met Mr. Gilbert, the representative of the ORT and JDC on Monday last and asked him if the JDC could help the Union to extend financial assistance to the needy families to pay the fees of their High School going children. Also, if tin food, clothing etc., could be made available for distribution to these villagers. Mr. Gilbert was not at all optimistic about the JDC coming to our assistance. It appears JDC helped education through Jewish schools only. Unfortunately, the Jewish schools in Bombay do not have any Hostels. Could you kindly explore the possibility of interesting the JDC authorities in our project. I have asked Mr. Gilbert to take a trip with me to the villages, to get first hand information of the state of those people there.

The depth of the graves is always 6 feet. There is no known variation. Coffins are used only by a few rich persons. Normally the body is lowered only in the shrouds. In some cases, the sides of the graves are built, before the burial. We anxiously await your esteemed opinion in the matter of the reopening of the old cemetery.

I received last week two packages containing cyclostyled copies of 'The Nature of Judaism' 'Introductory guide to the Bible', 'Learning Hebrew', 'Highlights of Jewish History', 'The Prayer Book' and 'A guide to the Jewish History'. I am handing over one copy each to

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██████████, the prospective candidate to the Yeshiva University.

With kindest regards.

I remain,

Most sincerely yours.

*a.d. Jhirad*

(A.D. JHIRAD)

Jt. Hon. Secretary.

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