

June 28, 1991

ON RABBI JOSEPH B. SOLOVEITCHIK

During my visit today with Chief Rabbi Shapira, he told me the following story to which he was personal witness.

When Rabbi Soloveitchik came to visit Israel, the one and only time during his life, in the 1930's, it was the last year of the life of Rabbi Kook, the Elder.

Rabbi Soloveitchik spoke in several place--as Mercaz Harav, at the Harry Fischel Institute, and several other yeshivot. At every lecture that he gave, Rabbi Kook's son, Rabbi Zvi Yehuda Kook, attended and listened attentively.

When Rabbi Shapira asked the younger Rav Kook why he was doing so, he answered as follows: His father received Rabbi Soloveitchik and they "talked in learning." When Rabbi Soloveitchik left, the elder Rav Kook told his son, that the experience of speaking with Rabbi Soloveitchik reminded him of his earliest years when he was a student at the Yeshiva of Volozhin, during the time that Rabbi Soloveitchik's grandfather, Rabbi Hayyim Soloveitchik, first started to give *sheurim*. I believe, the elder Rav Kook said, that the power of genius of the grandfather now resides with the grandson--and therefore, he said to his son, you should not miss a single *sheur* by Rabbi Soloveitchik.