

December 27, 1961

Mr. K. H. Hillel
Amerchand Chambers Mayo Rd.
Bombay 1, India

My Dear Mr. Hillel:

I am writing to you at the suggestion of our mutual friend
Mr. Manfred Sondheimer of New York City.

May I preface my remarks by saying that I was in India last year on behalf of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of India. I have been approached by a New York Jew who is a manufacturer of sweaters and is interested in building a factory for the same purpose in or around Bombay. He is Mr. Yoel Klein of Klein Knittings Mills, 774 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, New York. He is willing to invest from Fifty to One-Hundred Thousand Dollars or thereabouts, if Indian investors can be found to match his investment (i.e. slightly more, for Indian law requires 51% control by Indian citizens). We understand that the Indian government lends up to 75% (in addition to the above amounts) at five years interest free. Mr. Sondheimer has suggested that perhaps you or your business acquaintances might be interested.

My own interest in this matter is to be able to provide employment for the Jews of Bombay, both Iraqi and Bene Israel, in such a manner that they will be allowed to observe the Sabbath and holidays.

I have asked Mr. Abraham Jhirad, Executive Director of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of India in Bombay to discuss the matter with you.

I would appreciate it if you would give the matter your prompt attention.

Sincerely yours,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

NL:ff

CC: Mr. Sondheimer
Mr. S. R. Weiss
Mr. A. Jhirad