

The Cassias,  
4A Pali Road,  
Bandra, Bombay 50,  
4th April 1963

Dear Shri [redacted] ar,

You may remember that some six months ago I showed you a copy of a letter I had written to Mr. Michael, the Consul for Israel at Bombay, regarding the undesirability of the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs deputing a Rabbi to India to settle pending divorces. In that letter I had informed him that, if the proposal was persisted in, I would appeal to the Government of India to refuse admission to the Rabbi. You had then agreed that a Rabbi so deputed was completely unacceptable.

I have seen a letter addressed by you to Shri D.A. Mazgaonkar in which you say that your Union has arranged with your opposite number in America for a Rabbi in whose selection the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Chief Rabbinate of Israel will have a hand to come to Bombay presumably under your auspices. It is evident that, except for the cover given to the arrangement by the UOJCA, it is substantially the same as that to which you professed such strong opposition in conversation with me, and I can hardly believe that you have not realised that this is so.

About the religious aspects of the matter, I am not personally concerned, though it is astonishing that any self-respecting Bene Israel organisation can for a moment contemplate cooperating with an authority which humiliates us. Have you forgotten the terms of your address to Rabbi Brodie or of the Open Letter to the President and the Prime Minister of Israel? What, however, I am concerned with, and what every loyal citizen of India should be concerned with, is the handle you have provided to the Israeli Government and its hirelings to interfere in our domestic concerns. The matter is, to my mind, of such importance that I have considered it necessary to send a representation to the Government of India in the matter without waiting to canvass opinion amongst friends and acquaintances.



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I trust that, even at this late stage, you will take corrective action to ensure that the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Chief Rabbinate of Israel are excluded altogether from the selection of the Rabbi, so that there will be no risk of unseemly opposition and divisions.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

B.J.ISRAEL