

FOUNDED IN 1657

ק"ק שער השמים

Office of the Haham  
of the  
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15 Tammuz 5723

5th July 1963

Rabbi Lamm,  
The Jewish Centre,  
131 West 86th Street,  
New York 24, N.Y.,  
United States of America.

My dear Rabbi Lamm,

Our mutual friend Mrs. Bendheim told me that you do not expect letters from me until you see me. The reason for not writing to you before was that, as you can imagine, I was extremely occupied with many problems facing our Community in England and unfortunately the illness of Dr. Brodie threw some more work upon me. He is now, thank God, feeling much better and is undertaking his duties. He will, however, have to look after himself.

In addition we also had the European Conference of Rabbis, which was, in my opinion, one of the most successful conferences that we have ever held. Unfortunately, the "Jewish Chronicle" refused to give it proper coverage - in my opinion, just because it was successful.

I was told that Rabbi Jung is already in Switzerland and that he hopes to be in London sometime at the beginning of September. This means that you are now in charge of the Congregation all on your own.

I received the letter which you wrote to me in Hebrew, and I can assure you that there is no truth in those rumours as far as any permanent appointment is concerned. I may be willing from time to

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time to come and help, but, in my opinion, there will be necessity in that Congregation of a full-time Rabbi who will undertake to revive its traditions, its sense of duty and also, its sense of responsibility for the Sephardim throughout America.

I know that you must be upset with me that I have not written to you as often as I would like to do, but I am sure you will understand that, owing to the fact that I have had to do so much work which had accumulated during my absence, I was not able to keep up my correspondence as I ought to have done. I would like, however, to hear from you how things stand. I hope that the bonds of friendship, which we formed during my stay in America, will continue to bind us, and I can assure you that very often I think of you and of the problems which face you.

Please give my best wishes to Mr. Stern and to his family, and I do hope that they are all keeping well.

Now to come to India. As you know, Rabbi Gotthold has gone, and as far as I know, is still there. I have not heard from him at all. I understand that the other Rabbi refused to go, and when I tried to obtain the services of some Sephardi Rabbis both here and in Israel, I was faced with a refusal which, in my opinion, comes from the desire to keep away from any controversial matter. This is becoming, as far as I am concerned, a source of real anxiety. It seems to me that our Rabbis simply refuse to take responsibilities and to express their views on matters which may give rise to controversy. If this is the attitude that they are going to adopt, I do not know how we shall ever bring about a solution to different religious problems, facing Jewry both in Israel and in the Diaspora. Let us not deceive ourselves that there are many Yeshivot being created both in Israel and outside Israel, The fact remains that many people are becoming indifferent to religion and to our religious institutions, and this is a great danger for the future of Orthodox Jewry. I wanted to write to the Community in Calcutta and in Bombay, supporting the mission of Rabbi Gotthold, but so far, I have not been able to persuade the Beth Din here to do the same, because unfortunately some of the Dayanim have been influenced by the attitude



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of the Rabbi who refused to go to India. Again, the whole problem  
is how are we to deal with Indian Jewry. Have you heard at all  
from Rabbi Gotthold? ]

My Wife joins me in sending you and your family all our best  
wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*Shalom Eap.*