

UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH
CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA

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OFFICE OF
EXECUTIVE VICE PRES.

BEEKMAN 3-2220

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22 Sivan 5721
June 6, 1961

Gentlemen:

Various circumstances prevented me from replying to your communications, directed to Rabbi Lamm on May 7th and to Mr. Feuerstein on May 12th, as well as to myself on April 13th. I assure you, though, that Mr. Feuerstein and I have been in constant contact with Rabbi Lamm who has conducted so intensive a correspondence with our friends in India.

First let me report to you on materials mailed to the UOJCI as of today, in keeping with your letter to Rabbi Lamm. You will receive, directly from the Hebrew Publishing Company of New York, the following:

20 copies of the Humash in Hebrew with English translation;

10 copies of the "Code of Jewish Law" (Kitzur Shulchan Aruch) in the Hebrew original;

10 of the same in the English translation;

1 set of the same, in 4 volumes, Hebrew with English translation. (This set, I thought, might be advantageous for the instructor.)

We are furthermore shipping to you the following:

20 copies each of our Handbooks on Yomim Noraim, Pesach, Purim and Chanukah.

100 copies each of our Festival Series on Chanukah, the High Holy Days, Pesach, Purim, Sukkoth and Shavuoth.

(The Handbooks are designed for leaders and instructors. The Festival Series is for distribution to the membership).

COPY

500 copies of "Essentials of Judaism"
100 copies of our Guidebook on Kashruth
100 copies of our booklet on prayer
100 copies on the Kaddish
100 copies of our booklet on Brith Milah
10 Manuals on the Organization of Synagogue Youth
20 Manuals on Teen-Age Activities
20 Manuals on Organizing a Synagogue Youth Commission
20 Shabbat Manuals for Youth Groups.

We are further sending you, courtesy of the Rabbinical Council of America,

105 copies of "Marriage and Home" (this booklet also contains a fine section on Kashruth in the home).

1 RCA Sermon Manual, 1959 edition.

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3 copies of "Tradition", latest issue.

We are furthermore mailing you 10 sets, of 5 volumes each, of the "Play and Learn" children's books series published by our Women's Branch, *as a gift of the Women's Branch.*

I received from the Indian Consulate the information that you may receive religious books as gifts without paying import duty, providing that the shipment does not exceed the value of Rs. 250 (the equivalent of \$53.50). Therefore, these books will be shipped in packages each of which contains a value below the above amount. Nevertheless and in order to enable us in the future to fulfill requests for religious paraphernalia more efficiently, may I recommend that you obtain a letter from the state certifying your authority to receive such shipments; that you submit this letter to the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports at the Nov Bhavan in Bombay who will then issue to you the necessary import license.

This is the advice I obtained from the Indian Consulate. I was told that such a licensee would facilitate the shipment of books above the value of Rs. 250. I am sure that you will be able to obtain our present shipments, though several parcels may arrive within quick succession or even on the same day, constituting an aggregate value above the permissible amount.

May I also request of you that you inform me immediately upon receipt of the shipments and let me know whether you would like to receive additional copies and how many of the respective items. We rely on you to request only such copies and such amounts as will really be needed and helpful.

I am informed that you would be unable to transfer the funds you still retain for the Tefillin to Israel. Of the \$700 transmitted to you by Rabbi Lamm, over \$640 are still in your possession. We will, accordingly assign this amount to other purposes as follows: \$250 kindly utilize for one year's salary of the Chazan in Panvel. This is a personal donation of Mr. Max Stern. We will utilize the equivalent of this amount for our payments to the Ministry of Religions in Israel for Tefillin. We will add to this amount in payment for the Tefillin another \$700 which Mr. Stern obtained from a personal friend for this purpose. I am writing to the Ministry of Religion in Israel, as per enclosed copy, to forward to you immediately 200 pair of Tefillin which will cost IL 16. each, a total of IL 3,200. Of this amount, the Ministry of Religions will shoulder one-third. We will pay the remainder, namely IL 233. - which is close to \$1200.

May I urge you to obtain immediately import licenses for the Tefillin.

Concerning the English typewriter, kindly investigate how much you would have to pay for a good used typewriter in Bombay. The shipment of a typewriter from here would be cumbersome, costly and difficult in respect to duty-free import. I would advise you to spend up to \$100, approximately Rs. 500. Here we would have to pay between \$65.00 and \$75.00, exclusive of shipping charges, for a used model. A new model, including shipping and delivery by the Bombay branch of the American manufacturer, would cost approximately \$250.

Please inform me by return mail of the cost of printing "Mebasser" per issue. This will put us in a position to authorize from the balance of the funds held by you the further publication of your magazine.

I received today from Rabbi Lamm the letter of Mr. Solomon Awaskar and we will see to it that Yeshiva University immediately forwards to him the necessary forms. Rabbi Lamm also informs me that he received a letter today stating that one of the young students is already on his way to Israel, namely Solomon Aaron Nagafkar. In keeping with your letter of April 13th, you surely have advanced to this student the fare of Rs. 1214 - and Rs. 50 for expenses. You are hereby authorized to deduct this amount, approximately \$270 from the self-same Tefillin funds.

Thus, from the balance of these funds which, as above, are \$640, we deduct \$250 for Panvel, \$270 for scholarship travel, a total of \$520. On the remainder we will decide upon learning the cost of "Mebasser" and the cost of the typewriter. In principle, we are ready to supplement the necessary amount, once the request is submitted to our Overseas Commission. Your early reply therefore is needed.

Would you kindly clarify and state precisely the amounts necessary for the office accommodations mentioned in your letter of May 12th. I am puzzled by the absence of your statement on the exact costs of the lease and of the costs of construction necessary; on the expected income from rental; and on the 50% charge of the assessed rent. We also would like to know to whom the 4% interest you mention would have to be paid. If it is a non-Jewish construction company or bank, then this is possible. If the recipient were to be the trustees of the Magen David Synagogue, you could not enter such an agreement inasmuch as the Torah prohibits payment of interest by a Jew to his fellow Jew. We are permitted to share profits with the one who advances the necessary capital for a business venture. Arrangements would have to be made, therefore, to have the trustees participate in the rental income which would be the profit of the undertaking. Any contract or arrangement would have to be approved for its Halachic propriety before signature.

Finally, may I burden you with a brief and concise outline of your most urgent needs and requirements for current activities, in addition to the above mentioned sacred books and literature. As far as the prayer books are concerned, kindly describe clearly what edition you use (Livorno, - Spanish Portuguese or what other "Nussach".) I am afraid we would send you a prayer book not coinciding with your needs and would rather wait until you clearly define the type you need and the quantity you desire.

With kindest personal regards and all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. Samson R. Weiss
Executive Vice President

SRW/ed

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