

Jerusalem, April 22, 1962.

Dr. Samson R. Weiss

Executive & Vice President, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America  
84, Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Weiss:

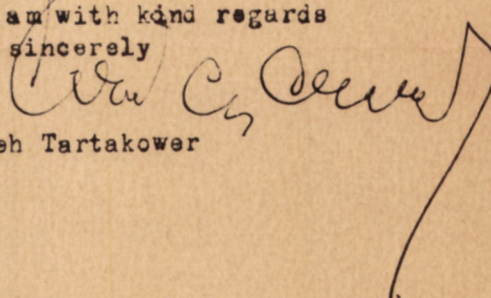
You may remember the conference which a few months ago took place in your office at which time I discussed with you the problem of the Bene Israel community in India and Israel and an "agreement" was reached between us, according to which you would be ready to grant your assistance in training an orthodox rabbi for the Bene Israel in India. I informed about the content of our conference Chief Rabbi Nissim immediately upon my return to Israel. He was glad to hear it but at the same time was afraid that training a rabbi here in Israel would require at least two or three years whereas the urgent need in India already exists at the present. He, therefore, wondered whether your assistance in covering the budget of the rabbinate in Bombay could not be promised immediately provided that a proper candidate will be found here in Israel, whereas at the same time another young candidate would be trained whose training and living expenses anyway are being taken care of on the spot.

May I have the benefit of your reaction to this suggestion<sup>1</sup>. I did not write you before, since there was again trouble in this country with the marriage affairs of the Bene Israel and an angry controversy between Chief Rabbi Nissim and the representatives of the Bene Israel, but my impression is that the atmosphere calmed considerably down in the last few weeks and the moment may have come to consider again the important problem of the religious education of the Bene Israel in India.

I am taking advantage of this opportunity in order to submit you another request on behalf of Dr. S. Sabath, author of the book "In the Camps of the North: the Fate of a Jewish Prisoner Behind the Iron Curtain" /Hebrew, published in Israel in 1959, 574p./ which had a very favorable review in "Jewish Life", December 1961. Encouraged by this review where among others the publication of the book in English is being urged, the author who happens to be a friend of mine asked me to find out with your kind cooperation whether your organization would be ready to participate in the expenses of having the book translated into English. I understand that the publisher Yoseloff is in principle ready to undertake the publication of the book but first the translation is to be taken care of. If it is not too difficult, kindly let me have the benefit of your opinion.

Looking forward to your answer, I am with kind regards

Yours sincerely

  
Dr. Arie Tartakower