

UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH  
CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA

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OFFICE OF  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRES.

ALGONQUIN 5-4100

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Tammuz 16, 5722  
July 18, 1962

Dear Mr. Jhirad:

I trust that you received my letter of June 25th. In the meantime, we received here the latest issue of "Mebasser".

While we are happy that the magazine appeared again, we have been greatly disturbed by some of its contents.

We find, for instance, the remarks concerning the late Professor Aaron most distasteful. They amount to the besmirching of the memory of a person no longer among us to defend himself. Even if such remarks were to refer to a living person, they should have no place in a publication dedicated to Torah and its ideals.

Also, some of the statements dealing with Israel reveal an unhealthy and vindictive attitude which should have no place in the columns of a magazine which is designed to represent Judaism at its finest. There are two kinds of debates. One kind is directed at, and concerned with, the issue at hand. A point of view is stated and arguments are marshalled in its support. The other kind is directed "ad personam", attacking the opponent and his motives rather than speaking on the issue. This must be avoided at all costs. It is un-Jewish. It is also very harmful to the cause of the UOJCI which is to bring people closer to Torah-true Judaism.

Of course, you may say it is easy for an outsider to counsel patience in so sensitive an area as is the problem of the recent debate on the marriage rulings of the Chief Rabbinate in Israel. But even to the most excited ones it must become obvious that tremendous progress has been made in the last year, more than in the five preceding decades, and that this progress can only be harmed by explosive and violent statements. It is the leadership of the UOJCI, therefore, which must rise to the wisdom and the statesmanship of keeping their people in check and not to permit vindictiveness and negative attitudes to appear in print or in any other public statement.



Mr. A. D. Jhirad

July 18, 1962

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We learned from Mr. Kelman that Dr. Warhaftig, the Israeli Minister of Religion, in conjunction with the Chief Rabbinate, intends to send a qualified rabbi to India to take care of the pending Gittin. We wholeheartedly approve of this arrangement which would greatly contribute to further progress in the solution of the problem mentioned above. We here are in full agreement that no one in India should presently undertake to arrange Gittin, but that from time to time a qualified Israeli rabbi should come to Israel for this purpose, until such time that a rabbi, recognized by the appropriate authorities as fully qualified to deal with such matters, will be found to accept a permanent position in your community. At present, neither the Bene Israel nor the Iraqi community has such a rabbinic leader and, therefore, the proposal of Dr. Warhaftig is a sound one. We urge you to give it all possible organizational and personal support.

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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