

(Calcutta
Feb. 18, 1961)

MEMORANDUM.

Rabbi Norman Lamm came to Bombay on behalf of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America in order to assist in the setting up of a Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of India and to give such assistance to the latter body as the former body was capable of. The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of India has since been successfully established at Bombay.

Pursuant to a pressing request made to him by Mr. Ellis Meyer the Rabbi kindly visited Calcutta and it was made known to him that the problem of the Calcutta community was to find a suitable Teacher, Sofer, Mohal and Shohet. If therefore somebody with all the qualifications enumerated could be persuaded to come to Calcutta that would be of very great assistance nay essential to the community.

The Rabbi came to Calcutta and in a meeting with certain leading members of the community suggested that the Synagogues should affiliate to the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of India with a Vice-President for Calcutta. He suggested further that a Beth Din should be set up as a laybody which would be governed by certain guiding principles which he, in consultation with Dr. Gaon of London would formulate. He suggested that a meeting of the Governing Body of the Jewish Association of Calcutta should be called at which the above proposals could be considered and further that the meeting of the community fixed for the 19th February 1961 should be adjourned until the guiding principles also mentioned above could be sent to the community in order that persons who are candidates for election to the Beth Din would seek such election on the footing that the Beth Din would be guided by such principles. It was made clear however by Rabbi Lamm that the Beth Din could seek guidance as heretofore from London or Israel or indeed anywhere else it wished.

A meeting of the Governing Body of the Jewish Association of Calcutta took place on the 12th February 1961 when it was decided

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to recommend to the Synagogues that they should affiliate with the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of India. It was pointed out that the Union of Orthodox Congregations of America would pay roughly 25% of the salary of the person chosen to come to Calcutta as Teahher, Sofer, Mohal and Shohet. The Rabbi further undertook to try and find such a person in Israel or elsewhere who would undertake the job.

The Governing Body of the Association was much in favour of the affiliation as also of the proposal that a fit person should come to Calcutta to render service to the Calcutta community in the above capacities.