

Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of India

C/o Magen Hasidim Synagogue,
8, Moreland Road,

BOMBAY-11, INDIA

Dated February 27, 1963.

Dear Dr. Weiss:

It is always so encouraging to receive your communications that delay causes untold anxiety. I can well realise the busy time you must have, because of your high office and especially before, during and after the National Convention of U.O.J.C.A., which proudly embraces the majority of Congregations in U.S.A. and Canada. For my people, I am grateful that you show such keen interest in our endeavour to hold fast to Traditional Judaism.

The audited receipts and payments statement for the year ended 1962 adopted at the meeting of the Union on February 11, -1963, together with the budget is enclosed herewith. The closing balance represents Rs 600/- to be paid to the Jewish Agency, Rs 525/- to the Beth El Synagogue, Panvel and the balance being education fund for the poor students of villages.

From the expenditure you will notice that we have tried to keep the expenses in all respects very low. Last year we ordered only 1500 copies of Mehasser and there were no special issues. If the full sanctioned amount was made available to us, office equipment could have been purchased. I have included the amount necessary for the travel expenses to the Konkan etc., in the budget. We look forward to the Overseas Commission accepting the same in full and remitting the balance of the sanctioned amount immediately.

The problem in Israel is still smouldering and you cannot but expect the interested parties taking advantage of the situation to further their own ends. It is not so much the officers of the Union, whom we have to make understand the efforts made by the Orthodox Section of World Jewry, but

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the masses, of whom many have one track minds. We hope and pray that your sincere efforts accomplish the desired end.

Your very important communication was delivered in my hands at a very opportune moment. On Sunday, February 24, 1963, at 10 A.M., meeting of the Union was convened to elect the office-bearers and the Executive for the years 1963 and 1964. The Vice-Consul of Israel, Mr. Shimon Avizemer was also present by special invitation to meet the officers of the Union. Your letter of February 13, 1963 was read at the meeting as a surprise event of the day.

The Coming of these two dignitaries and the subsequent arrival of a Rabbi for two years, will mean major historical events for our community, especially our section. It will also mean a busy time for us. The news was received with a mixed feeling of surprise, joy and a bit of hesitation. These Rabbis are on a mission to serve the entire Indian Jewry regardless of labels. The officers of the Union are prepared to accept and welcome them and do their best to make their stay here in India a success.

However, although this historic mission is sponsored jointly by the U.O.J.C.A., the R.C.A. the Religious Ministry of Israel and the Jewish Agency, it is not very clear from your letter as to who is to arrange their stay, their various arrangements in Bombay and elsewhere. Whether they would need the services of a Secretary and exactly how they would like to conduct themselves here?

There is a proposal to have a Lay Beth Din of the U.O.J.C.I. set up before the arrival of these Rabbis, so that these lay officers can receive instructions and guidance in respect of pressing religious problems and be ready to deal with them in the absence of any Rabbis.

Kindly let me have your views at your earliest, to enable me to acquaint the Executive accordingly.

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Thanking you for your kind indulgence and with warmest regards of the officers of the Union and my humble self.

Sincerely yours,

A.D. Jhirad
Exec. Director

Encls: 1 Statement of Accts.
2 Budgetary Statement
3 List of Newly elected
Office-bearers and officers
of the Union.

Dr. Samson R. Weiss
Executive Vice President
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations
of America
84 Fifth Avenue,
New York 11, N.Y.