

FOUNDED IN 1867

ק"ק שער השמים

Office of the Haham  
of the  
Spanish & Portuguese Jews

4, Ashworth Road, Maida Vale  
London, W.9.

Telegraphic Address  
GAON, LONDON - W.9

Telephone :  
CUNNINGHAM 4189

28th Sivan 57 21

12th June 19 61

Rabbi Norman Lamm,  
131-135 West 86th Street,  
New York 24, N.Y.

Dear Rabbi Lamm,

I was glad to receive the copy of your letter to Mr. Abraham Jhirad of Bombay.

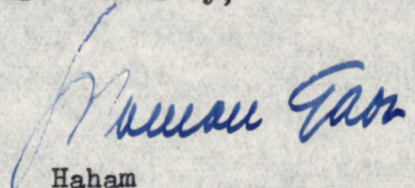
I agree with everything you write. Immediately on the publication of the news that some of our Bnei Israel were not being recognised as Jews in Israel, I cabled to the Chief Rabbinate who assured me that this was not so. They stood by their earlier decision and that was that they leave it to the individual Batei Din to decide on these matters.

In the meantime, I have been in touch with Bnei Israel families in London who were very disturbed by the rumours, and I assured them that, as far as our Beth Din is concerned, they have nothing to worry for themselves or for their children.

I think, however, the time has come when perhaps a joint effort should be made by us all in order to urge Israeli Rabbinate to come to a definite solution. The Bnei Israel problem has now become a burning one and almost the touchstone of good faith, as far as this part of the House of Israel is concerned.

I do hope to have the opportunity of seeing you soon and hoping to hear from you on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

  
Haham