

Path Lamm

EZRA BROTHERS

DISTRIBUTORS OF PHARMACEUTICAL SPECIALITIES

MUSTAFA BUILDING
SIR PHIROZSHAH MEHTA ROAD

BOMBAY 19th MAY 1961.

Rabbi Norman Lamm,
131 West 86th Street,
NEW YORK 24,
NEW YORK, U.S.A.

Dear Rabbi Lamm,

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health. It has been quite some time since you left Bombay but we enjoyed your short visit very much and you have certainly left a fresh impact upon us here. We hope to see you once again with us in the near future.

Mr. Manasseh has conveyed to me the contents of your letter urging the necessity of forming a Bethdin in Bombay. I quite agree with the necessity of this move, as it will definitely help to consolidate and establish our work in Bombay. This question was discussed at a meeting held on Wednesday the 17th instant but was shelved for the next meeting. I hope very soon this body becomes a reality and a force in Bombay Jewry.

Now coming to the question of the O.R.T. and JOINT Committee in Bombay, I am sure you must have received a copy of the letter addressed to Mr. by Mr. Jhirad as Secretary of our Organisation, analysing as briefly as possible the selection of the O.R.T. & JOINT Committee and its workings as well as the adverse effect it will have on our Organisation in time to come. The reason is simple, as Mr. Jhirad has rightly put it that the person who controls the purse controls the community. If the present trend of events taking place in the community today is not nipped in its bud, I am afraid, Orthodoxy will be well overshadowed and outnumbered. The day will come when we will regret our failure to take early and decisive steps against this threatening and real danger. This matter should be taken

up absolutely immediately and Mr. Jhirad's letter should be considered as a genuine and real fact and treated as such if we are truly interested and concerned with consequences. You have already been informed by Mr. Manasseh about the 500 dollars per month sanctioned for the School along with 500 each to the Elly Kadoorie School and the Orphanage. The latter amounts were paid but the Jacob Sassoon School money was withheld even upto last week. I understand that Mr. Gilbert urged by the Committee insisted that this money could only be paid on the condition that certain persons, members of the O.R.T. & JOINT Committee should be appointed as Trustees of the School. However, no conditions were imposed on the other 2 organisations. Under what authority did Mr. Gilbert act to suspend payment and to impose such ~~xx~~ a condition when the amount has already been sanctioned by the Head Office without strings or conditions. Ultimately Mr. Gilbert succeeded in getting two of them as Trustees and the Trustees succumbed to this threat because of their desperate need of money for the School. Now that this tragedy has occurred, the cord which threatens to choke the life of Orthodoxy in Bombay has tightened effectively. I cannot make myself any clearer on this point and now it is for you and the Orthodoxy Organisation in America to set matters right urgently before it is quite too late,

With best regards,

I remain,
Yours sincerely,

J. S. Ezra
(J. S. Ezra).

JSE/JE.