



## BEHIND THE PICTURE

# A PURIM GUEST *Purim 5731*

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“When I visit the Rebbe, it is as a Chossid going to his Rebbe, **not** as a head of state. I have never heard of a Rebbe going to the Chossid, only of the Chossid coming to him!”

With these powerful words, President Zalman Shazar shrugged off all attempts by Israeli diplomats and security personnel (some in the highest echelons of the government), who wished to convince him out of his decision to go and visit the Rebbe. President Shazar sent a message to Brooklyn with word of his upcoming visit, which was scheduled for the night of Purim.

The Rebbe saw this as more than just a visit; it was an entire event, one that certainly left its mark on Chabad history.

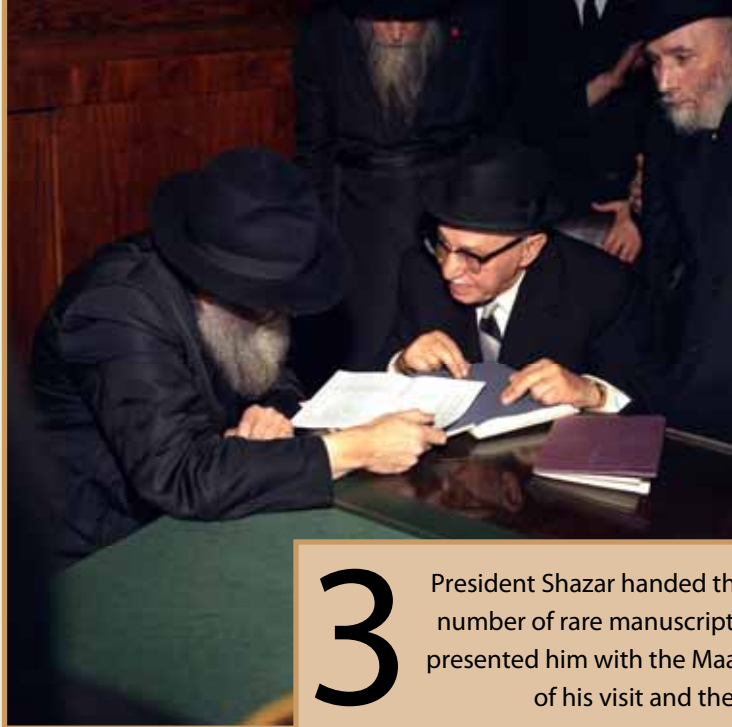
Presented here is a pictorial review of this historic visit, as captured by photographer Mr. Velvel Schildkraut. These pictures, some of them never-before-seen, were made available exclusively for *A Chassidisher Derher* by JEM/The Living Archive.

**2** The Rebbe and Shazar headed to the Rebbe’s room for a short while, with the throngs following close behind. The Rebbe and Shazar spent a few minutes in conversation. Shazar mentioned that he had heard a tape of the Yud Shevat Farbrengen of that year.



**1** A large crowd gathered in front of 770 as President Shazar’s motorcade arrived. Shazar’s face was filled with emotion when he caught sight of the Rebbe and he bent over and kissed him.





**3** President Shazar handed the Rebbe a wrapped package which contained copies of a number of rare manuscripts including one entitled 'Rimzei Geulah.' The Rebbe then presented him with the Maamor of the Alter Rebbe that had been published in honor of his visit and they discussed its toichen for a number of minutes.

**4** Lifting the Megillah in its gleaming silver case off his desk, where it had been laying, the Rebbe said to Shazar, "This Megillah is a memento for you; it is engraved with the words 'Purim 5731'." The Rebbe also gave him one of the special Siddurim that had been prepared in honor of his visit.



**5** The Rebbe and Shazar then went to the Shul for Krias HaMegillah. Afterward, they returned to the Rebbe's room where they spent four hours alone in private conversation. At 12:00am, Shazar emerged from the room and left 770, escorted by the Rebbe and accompanied by the Chassidim singing in the background.

