



## BEHIND THE PICTURE

# PRIVATE CONVERSATION

These rare photographs, dated 12 Tishrei, 5736 were recently discovered by Jem/The Living Archive and given for publication in *A Chassidisher Derher* magazine.

Pictured speaking with the Rebbe is Rabbi Shlomo Telushkin, son of Rabbi Nissan Telushkin, one of the elder Chabad Rabbonim in the United States.

Rabbi Shlomo Telushkin was not seen very often in 770 in those years, although he served in a position for the Rebbe as accountant for various *mosdos*.

JEM's research team searched extensively, in the hope of uncovering what was taking place in this intriguing picture. Although, the exact nature of the

discussion is unknown, a three line entry was found in connection with this conversation in a *yoman* penned at the time by Reb Yitzchak Meir Sassover, one of the bochurim in 770:

“Wednesday, 12 Tishrei. The Rebbe arrived from his home at 11:40. Near *mazkirus* stood a man who spoke with the Rebbe about someone who recently emigrated from Russia. The Rebbe spoke with him until 12:00...”

It's interesting to note that during the following day's farbrengen, Yud-Gimmel Tishrei, 5736, the Rebbe singled out the Yidden who recently emigrated from the Soviet Union and also mentioned those who were still trapped there for a person-

al redemption:

“Present here are Yidden from Russia, a place where so many of our Jewish brethren still find themselves in need of a geulah, including a geulah with regards to learning Torah and fulfilling mitzvos at ease. It is therefore appropriate that those who already managed to escape and arrived in a country where they can practice Torah and mitzvos without difficulty should sing a Russian song together, better if it be a song with Russian lyrics.

Being that “*simcha poretz geder*” – joy breaks all boundaries, especially when the joy is expressed by transforming the Russian language into good; [this song] will hasten Hashem's merciful salvation, and He'll lead them to Eretz Yisroel to greet Moshiach.

There most probably is a Chazzan or singer amongst them; let him sing a song with Russian words...”

The crowd then sang “Sluzshaba Nasha” (“Who knows One?” in Russian). ■



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