



AIR TRAVEL WAS COSTLY AND COMPLICATED.

Journeying across the world was far-fetched by all means. The year was 5721, but the passion of Chassidim who longed to be in the presence of the Rebbe transformed this barrier into a bridge.

Traveling to be with the Rebbe for Tishrei is embedded in the lives of Chassidim from their very beginning. The treacherous terrain of Eastern Europe was crossed year after year by scores of Chassidim within whom burned a deep desire to be with the Rebbe.

As Chassidim around the world prepare to travel to the Rebbe for Tishrei, we present you with the story of the very first Charter flight from Eretz Yisroel to New York for Tishrei, a pioneering feat that enabled over 100 Chassidim to spend Tishrei with the Rebbe.



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לזכות הילד מנחם מענדל שי'
לרגל הולדתו והכנסו בבריתו של אאע"ה
נדפס ע"י ולזכות הוריו
צבי גרשון וזוגתו דבורה לאה שיחיו פלברבאום

ONE FLIGHT TO OPEN THE FLOODGATES



תשרי תשכ"א



CHASSIDIM DANCE ON THE TARMAC AS THEY PREPARE TO TRAVEL TO THE REBBE FOR TISHREI 5738.

ONE FLIGHT TO OPEN THE FLOODGATES

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תשרי תשכ"א



(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) REB AIZIK KARASIK, REB NOCHUM TREBNIK, REB LEIBEL KAHAN, AND REB YITZCHOK MENDEL LIS STAND OUTSIDE THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN ERETZ YISROEL, WHERE THEY RECEIVED THE PAPERWORK NECESSARY FOR THE CHARTER.



A RECENT PICTURE OF REB YITZCHOK MENDEL LIS.

Four years had passed since Reb Yitzchok Mendel Lis a"h – a Lubavitcher Chossid residing in Kfar Chabad - had last seen the Rebbe. Being so physically distant from the Rebbe aroused a powerful desire to be in the Rebbe's presence once more; and although Tishrei 5721 was still many months away, that did not stop Reb Yitzchok Mendel from contemplating various propositions for travel to the Rebbe for Tishrei.

His previous journey had been by boat, stopping in numerous countries and spanned many days. The prices for traveling were also inhibitive, so he began to brainstorm for an alternative route; the idea of chartering an airplane from Eretz Yisroel to New York soon caught his attention.

He began to plan feverishly, realizing that this trip carried tremendous potential; at last, Chassidim would have a safe and efficient way to travel to the Rebbe! Hopefully, this idea would break through the obstacle that had long held back the majority of Chassidim from Eretz Yisroel from physically being in the Rebbe's *daled amos*...

DIFFICULTIES ABOUND

Reb Yitzchok Mendel realized that a lot of effort and risk stood in the way of bringing this project to fruition. In

addition to commissioning the plane and arranging the necessary government papers, every spot on the plane needed to be paid for in advance; and if the necessary amount was not guaranteed by a certain time, than all previous funds would be lost.

Many Chassidim were skeptical about the idea: it seemed far too farfetched to succeed. It also required every passenger to pay the equivalent of an average three month paycheck in Eretz Yisroel at the time !

In order to assure people that the trip would indeed come to fruition, Reb Yitzchok Mendel approached Reb Ephrayim Volf – Chairman of Agudas Chassidei Chabad in Eretz Yisroel and Menahel of Tomchei Temimim in Eretz Yisroel – and asked him to sign his name along with Reb Yitzchok Mendel's on the announcements. However, Reb Ephrayim was not very optimistic as to the projects' chances of success, and would not agree to allow his name to be used.

Reb Yitzchok Mendel next approached Horav Yisroel Leibov, the chairman of Tzeirei Agudas Chabad at the time, and asked him to lend his support to the project by allowing his name to be put on announcements. Horav Leibov, however, was also quite dubious that such an undertaking could succeed, and was not keen on signing. After much pleading

and cajoling, Horav Leibov agreed that in his next letter to the Rebbe he would mention the Charter flight, and if the Rebbe would respond affirmatively, he would then acquiesce.

A few days later, Horav Leibov received an answer from the Rebbe to his letter in which the Rebbe addressed all of the points he had mentioned in his letter, aside for what he had written about the charter. Horav Leibov took this as a sign that he shouldn't fulfill Reb Yitzchok Mendel's request.

FORGING FORWARD

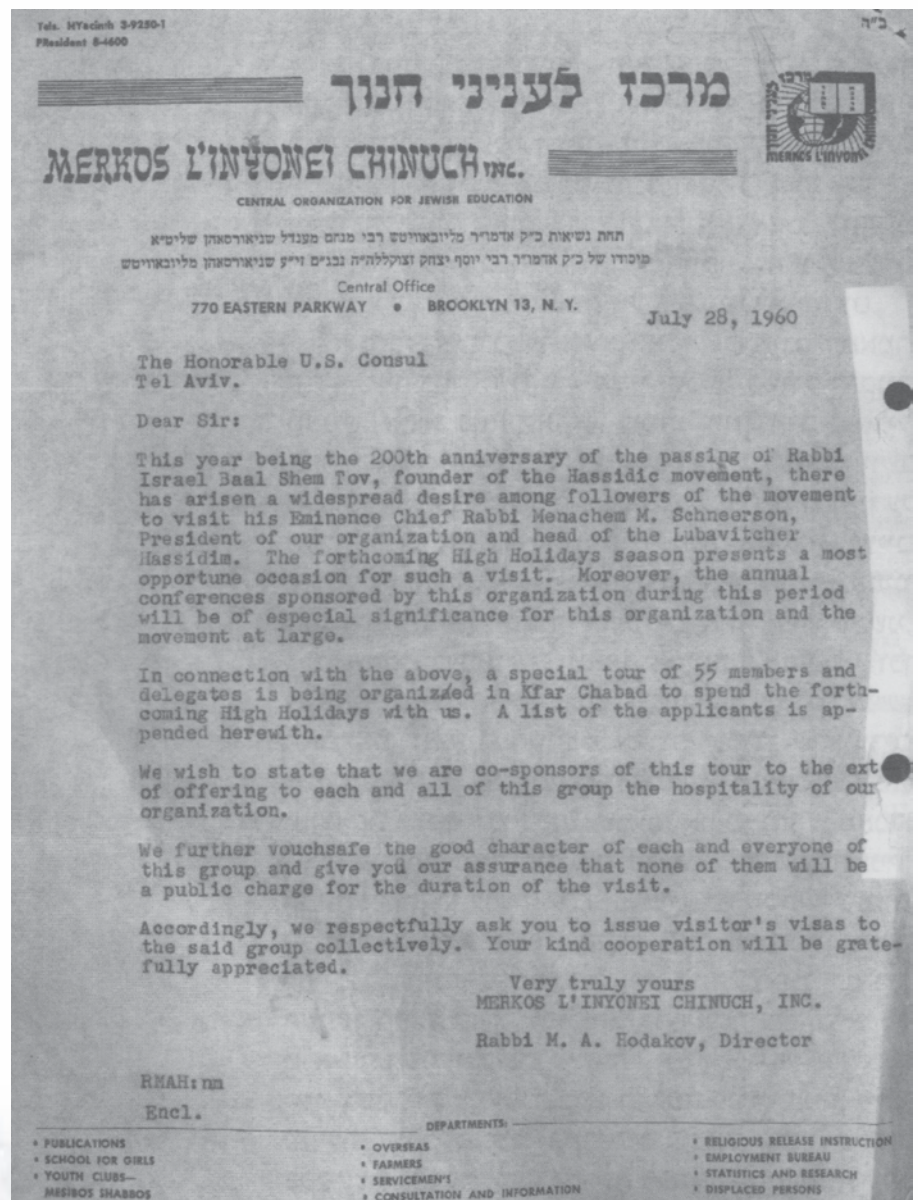
With no other choice, the idea was promoted amongst the Chassidim of Eretz Yisroel through ads in newspapers and hanging up signs signed in Reb Yitzchok Mendel's name.

At first, the reservations only trickled in, but Reb Yitzchok Mendel made sure to publicize every time he had reached a substantial number of new reservations, and pressure built up as people realized that it might soon be too late to join this pioneering endeavor.

Reb Yitzchok Mendel turned to El Al and requested to reserve the charter through their airline. The board of directors listened to his idea with skepticism; even amongst the wealthy and influential such a trip was farfetched, let alone amongst people like Reb Yitzchok Mendel with little financial backing.

One of the executives was a direct descendant of the Ohr Hachaim Hakadosh, Rabeinu Chaim ben Atar, and singlehandedly supported the idea. Through his work the arrangements for chartering the plane were able to be made.

The weeks that followed increasingly convinced the airline management that this flight would end up taking place, and in that spirit many fees were waived and they eased many of the difficulties. At one point Reb Yitzchok Mendel sent them a letter explaining that those traveling on the charter were ambassadors from Eretz Yisroel to visit the Nosi Hador, and



THE LETTER RABBI HODAKOV SENT TO THE US CONSUL IN ERETZ YISROEL, URGING HIM TO HELP THE CHARTER OBTAIN THE NECESSARY VISAS AND PAPERWORK.

consequently every one of the Chassidim traveling received a customized hand luggage with the logo of El Al, as would befit ambassadors of the country.

Navigating through the legalities and “red tape” in order to procure the necessary exit visas for the charter to travel to the USA also presented a great challenge.

Rabbi Chodakov sent telegrams to the American Embassy in Eretz Yisroel, requesting that they provide Reb Yitzchok Mendel with their assistance, and he also advised Reb Yitzchok Mendel to ask Rabbi Yosef Wineberg and Rabbi Dovid Hollander (who were

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1. REB MOSHE CHAIM ALPEROVITCH 2. REB CHAIM SHAUL BRUK 3. REB SHALOM DOVBER KESSELMAN 4. REB SHMEREL SASSONKIN 5. REB EFRAYIM VOLF 6. REB SHAUL BER ZISLIN AND REB AVROHOM PARIZ.

in Eretz Yisroel at the time) to help arrange things with the embassy. Their American citizenship could prove very advantageous in accomplishing this goal.

Later on, Rabbi Wineberg was *zoche* to receive a telegram from the Rebbe encouraging him help to Reb Yitzchok Mendel. The combined efforts bore fruit, and upon a visit to the US Consulate, Reb Yitzchok Mendel was notified that all papers had been approved!

Reb Yitzchok Mendel was filled with pride when he saw that the visas were labeled “Visa to visit Rabbi Schneerson of Lubavitch.” It was now abundantly clear that the Chassidim were traveling solely for the purpose of visiting the Rebbe and not for any other motives.

The technical details were now organized, and Reb Yitzchok Mendel now focused on filling up the flight in due time.

What he hadn’t foreseen was the drama that the hesitation of some Chassidim would cause.

A DEFINING DISTURBANCE

One day Reb Yitzchok Mendel received a message that the Rov of Kfar Chabad – Horav Shneur Zalman Gorelick, was summoning Reb Yitzchok Mendel to his house. Swiftly, he arrived at the Rov’s home where there was a group of individuals whose common bond was

that they all had bought tickets on the charter flight he was arranging.

Turning to the Rov, this group demanded that Reb Yitzchok Mendel dissolve the charter immediately and return their funds. They explained:

They had gotten wind that the monies they had paid were given directly to the airline. The policy of the airline was that they could only receive a refund in the event of a cancelation – if it was done 60 days prior to the flight. If cancelled 45 days before the flight they would lose ten percent of their money, and if cancelled seven days before the flight they were bound to lose all their money!

Thus, they reasoned with the Rov, the risks of the flight not being full and it being cancelled at the last minute were too great. It was imperative for the Rov to force Reb Yitzchok Mendel to abandon his foolhardy idea.

After hearing them out Reb Yitzchok Mendel responded:

“*Rabosai*, if it is your wish that I cancel the charter I will be glad to do so; however I beg you to bear the repercussions in mind: If we will not travel this time, then possibly we will never travel again! It is possible that individuals will travel every once in a while, but a group as large as this will be discouraged from ever going again.

ON EAGLES WINGS

Reb Michoel Halperin relates:

“As a young bochur learning in the Yeshiva in Lod, I pined for the time that I would be able to visit the Rebbe. A intense yearning to be in the Rebbe’s presence overtook me.

My chavrusa Reb Nachman Sudak a”h had already merited to visit the Rebbe in the year 5716, and this amplified my desire greatly.

At that point, I turned to my brother

Reb Tzvi Halperin to help me in this endeavor. He was living in Toronto at the time, and ran a Cheder for newly arrived Moroccan children. I asked that the next time he had a Yechidus regarding matters pertaining to the cheder, could he please ask reshuv and a brocha for me to visit the Rebbe.

He acquiesced to my request, and did so at his next Yechidus in the winter of 5720. Upon seeing this request, the Rebbe smiled and asked:

“ער האט שוין גענדיקט גאנץ תורת ארץ ישראל? ער וועט קומען, מיט נאך א סאך חסידים אויף כנפי נשרים”

“He has already finished [studying] the entire Torah of Eretz Yisroel? He will come with many other Chassidim on the ‘wings of an eagle.’”

The Rebbe’s foretelling words turned out to be the case very soon. I was privileged to join the 100 other Chassidim on the first charter to the Rebbe!”

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IF WE WILL NOT
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ONE OF THE NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS REB YITZCHOK MENDEL MADE ABOUT THE CHARTER.

We have now the opportunity to accomplish a tremendous breakthrough regarding traveling to the Rebbe! I have no qualms about returning your money, but can you handle the guilty conscience that will haunt you forever because of this missed opportunity?!"

These firm and passionate words of Reb Yitzchok Mendel made a great impression upon the individuals gathered. They soon retracted their complaints, allowing the charter to move ahead!

After much arduous work, over sixty tickets had been reserved. With the date of the flight soon approaching, Reb Yitzchok Mendel now established a *vaad* consisting of three other venerable Chassidim: Reb Nachum Trebnik; Reb Aizik Karasik; and Reb Leibel Kahan. The support this new committee brought propelled the efforts to greater success and enabled that in due time the charter flight was sold out!

SOARING SPIRITS

The realization that the trip was actually going to happen created a palpable sense of excitement amongst the Chassidim: soon they would be seeing the Rebbe, many of them for the first time!

By Shabbos Mevorchim Elul, who would be traveling had already been clarified. Over the weeks that followed the Chassidim prepared themselves for the trip, with a combination of deep anxiousness and jubilant spirit, as if it were a Yomtov!

Those who weren't going on the trip looked on with yearning, wishing that they would too have merited to go.

The date of the trip was set for Sunday 26 Elul.

Following in the footsteps of Chassidim in days gone by, they searched for ways to ready themselves in all matters of *ruchniyus* before traveling to the Rebbe; but the excitement and anticipation reached a climax when a letter from the Rebbe arrived.

In a letter dated Rosh Chodesh Elul 5720, the Rebbe addresses the *vaad* which was coordinating the charter, and gave numerous *horaos* regarding the journey. The following is an excerpt from the letter:¹

...ובאתי בזה בהצעה, בהקדמה - שהציאה מאה"ק ת"ו לחו"ל, הרי אפשרית היא, רק במקרים מיוחדים, ומהם, כדי להשתטח על קברי צדיקים, (ראה שדי חמד חלק אסיפת דינים בתחלתו, ובפאת השדה לשם). ובפרט בצדיק נשיא שהי'

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קרוב אליו לומד תורתו ומתנהג ע"פ הוראותיו והדרכתו, או עכ"פ מקבל עליו לעשות כזה מוכא ולהבא.

ידועים דברי רבותינו נשיאינו, בענין התקשרות שהוא ע"י (כנ"ל) לימוד תורתו וקיום הדרכותיו ותקנותיו.

וידוע ומפורסם עד כמה מסר נפשו כ"ק מו"ח אדמו"ר נשיא ישראל על תורת החסידות בכלל ועל הפצתה באופן הכי רחב ולחוגים הכי שונים - מתוך אהבה, ובאותה "הלשון" שהם שומעים.

ולכן - על כל אחד ואחת שי' מהמשתתפים בנסיעה האמורה, להתחיל בהאמור בפועל קודם התחלת הנסיעה בפועל, כוונתי - להוספה בלימוד הדא"ח ובפרט בלימוד מאמרי בעל הציון.

Free translation:

... It's known that according to Halacha one is only allowed to leave Eretz Yisroel under certain circumstances, one of them being to visit the *kivrei Tzaddikim* (see *asifas dinim* at the beginning of *S'dei*

Chemed, and the *Peas Hasadeh* there). Particularly with a Tzadik, a Nosi, that one was close to, studied his Torah, and behaved according to his directives and guidance - or at the very least have resolved to do so from now on.

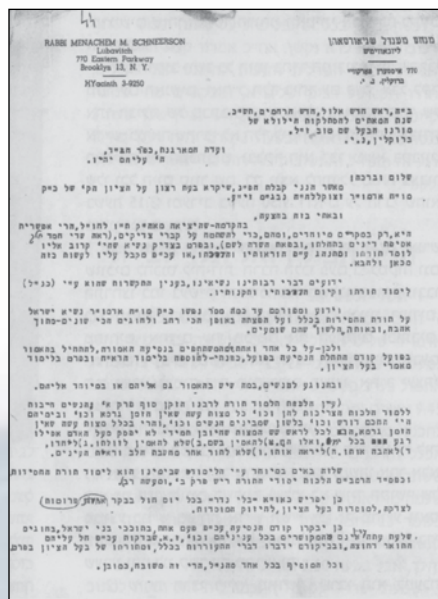
The words of *Rabboseinu Nesieinu* are well known: that Hiskashrus is achieved through the study of [the Rebbe's] Torah and following their directives and guidance.

Well known is the *mesirus nefesh* of the Friediker Rebbe *Nosi Yisroel* for Toras Hachassidus in general, and for its dissemination in the most widespread manner amongst all groups - with love, and in the language they understand.

Therefore - it is incumbent on every one of the individuals taking part in the above mentioned voyage, to begin [doing everything] mentioned, even before



REB YITZCHOK MENDEL POURS LECHAIM TO THE CHASSIDIM ON BOARD THE CHARTER.



THE LETTER THE REBBE SENT WITH HORAOS FOR THE CHARTER.



CHASSIDIM DANCE IN THE AIRPORT BEFORE TRAVELING TO THE REBBE FOR TISHREI.

A HISTORIC JOURNEY

בנוגע לתוכן העניין דעלי' לרגל בעבודה הרוחנית בנפש האדם - מבואר בלקו"ת שמשחרב ביהמ"ק הגם שאין אנו יכולים להשתחוות ("עיקר הראי' היא ההשתחוואה שהי' משתחוואה ויוצא"), עכ"פ נתפשטה קדושת הארה זו אפס קצחו במקדש מעט, "בית הכנסת ובית המדרש", ועאכו"כ - ביהכנ"ס וביהמ"ד מיוחדים, וע"ד - של כ"ק מו"ח אדמו"ר נשיא דורנו.

כן "עושים גם היום" - שכמה וכמה עשירות מיישראל מטלטלים את עצמם ("טלטולי גברא" וגם "טלטולי דאיתא") מביתם ומקומם, כדי לשהות במשך מועדי ודש תשרי בד' אמותיו של נשיא דורנו, מעין ודוגמת זכר לענין דעלי' לרגל בזמן שביהמ"ק הי' קיים.

(התוועדות תשמ"ז עמ' 465)



the trip actually begins. I am referring to additional study of Chassidus, particularly the Frierdiker Rebbe's Maamorim..."

The Rebbe continued in the letter to emphasize that the above messages pertained also to the woman participating with an equal measure.

At the conclusion of the letter the Rebbe enumerated a number of directives the Chassidim should do in the days before the flight, and others to be done on the flight itself.

Before the Flight:

- To set aside coins each morning before Davening for a Tzedaka that benefits or strengthens the *mosdos* of the Frierdiker Rebbe.
- Each individual should visit at least one visit to an individual who is not yet openly *mekushar* [to the Rebbe]. During these visits they should speak *divrei hisorerus*, and deliver words from the Torah of the Frierdiker Rebbe.
- One who adds in the above directives is praiseworthy.

During the Flight:

- The shiurim of Chumash, Tehillim and Tanya should be studied publicly as a group.

- A shiur in any portion of the Frierdiker Rebbe's Torah, based on the preference of the majority of the group, should be learned publicly.
- All individuals flying on the charter – even the airplane staff– should take part in these public shiurim.

TRAVELING TO THE REBBE

On the eve proceeding the trip, a *tzeischem l'shalom* was held in the main Shul of Kfar Chabad following S'lichos. A lively *farbrengen* continued throughout the night, its effect lasting till they were to leave to the airport on Sunday afternoon.

Three busses carried the passengers and wellwishers from Kfar Chabad to the airport, while many others used other modes of transportation. Few could bear to miss this turning point in the history of Lubavitcher Chassidim!

Despite attempts of the airport police to keep the masses at bay, the overpowering stream of Chassidim spread onto the tarmac, tears flowing from those who were traveling and those merely seeing them off.

The passengers were both young and old, and from many backgrounds, all with the same motive: to spend Tishrei in the

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Rebbe's presence. Here are the names of just a few of them:

Horav Shneur Zalman Gorelick – Rov of Kfar Chabad, Reb Chaim Shaul Bruk – The venerable Mashpiya, Horav Shmerel Sassonkin – Rov of Kehilas Chabad in Yerushalayim, Horav Nochum Trebnik – Rosh Yeshiva of Kfar Chabad, Reb Avrohom Pariz, and Reb Chaim Moshe Alperowitz.

Excitement filled the plane as the wheels lifted off the ground – מ'פארט צום רבי'ן!

Once they were safely in the air, Horav Eli Landau and Horav Shalom Eisenbach [bochurim at the time] addressed the group through the planes microphone, instructing them to open their Chumashim, Tehillims and Tanyas and prepare to learn in unison, as per the Rebbe's instructions.

Afterwards they learned the maamer of Mayim Rabim 5717 through a shiur that Reb Shalom Dovber Kesselman gave over the microphone, and the Frierdiker Rebbe's maamer of Bosi Legani was taught by Reb Boruch Pariz in his unique

and passionate way. Remembering the Rebbe's directive, they included the flight attendants and pilots by donning Tefillin with them.

Throughout the flight a *lebedike* farbrengen ensued, during which many of the elderly Chassidim recounted how they would travel to the Frierdiker Rebbe and the Rebbe Rashab many years before. Fondly, they recalled how such trips sometimes lasted weeks, vulnerable to the elements and to the whim of the wagon driver.

Lechaim was generously distributed amongst the passengers, pervading the plane with a lebedike atmosphere. Soon enough, the Chassidim erupted into a joyous dance, twirling in jubilant circles around the plane. If they hadn't noticed yet, it was clear to the airplane staff that this was not a typical flight...

When, the plane made a brief stop in Paris to refuel, a crowd of Chassidim could be seen standing at the gates of the airport, due to airport restrictions. Although unable to physically meet

A GROUP OF BOCHURIM IN THE AIRPORT, ON THE WAY TO NEW YORK TO SPEND TISHREI WITH THE REBBE.



each other, the French Chassidim enthusiastically sung “*eimosai kosi mar*,” as the contagious spirit of excitement spread to them.



JUBILANT SPIRITS OVERTAKE THE CHASSIDIM WHO ARE TRAVELING TO THE REBBE.

Shortly before the plane was set to depart from Paris, the Mashpiya Reb Nissen Nemanov arose to give a brocha in the name of all the Chassidim assembled, that the members of the charter should have a good trip both *b'ruchniyus* and *b'gashmiyus*.

BRIGHT HORIZONS

The hour was 7:15 am; at last they had arrived in Idlewild airport!²

After sorting out extensive complications which arose at the customs and border control³ they rushed into the welcoming arms of scores of Anash and Bochorim who had come to greet them. The crowd included six of the Shluchim that had previously visited Eretz Yisroel in 5716.⁴

The first of the passengers to emerge was Reb Avrohom Meizelish, who to his surprise was greeted by Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky with the words: Reb Avrohom, you were *zoche*!

Startled, Reb Avrohom asked him: “What have I been *zoche* to?”

Rabbi Krinsky explained that earlier that morning after S'lichos, the Rebbe had instructed him to travel to the airport to greet the charter. Furthermore, the Rebbe requested that he call the office of Mazkirus as soon as he arrived at the airport.

He did so immediately upon arriving, and he understood that the Rebbe was on the line! However it ended up being quite a while until the flight was released from customs. In the meantime the Rebbe remained on the line, waiting for the news that the flight had come through safely.

As soon as Reb Avrohom had entered the arrivals hall of the airport, Rabbi Krinsky immediately told the Rebbe that we had arrived and that the first one to emerge was Reb Avrohom Meizelish. The Rebbe answered “Yaasher Koach Gadol!”

CHATZROS KODSHEINU

The arrival of the Charter in New York brought with it an uplifting energy that pervaded around the Rebbe. The Rebbe's face shone with a unique joy throughout the entire Tishrei; in fact the Rebbe mentioned the special group of guests many times throughout the Farbrengens that Tishrei.

Similar to a father which welcomes his children back home, the Rebbe seemed to be dedicating affection and care to the members of the charter. A glow of pleasure was apparent upon the Rebbe's countenance throughout the entire Tishrei.

They were tired from an exhausting trip, but nothing could mar the excitement pent up within them to finally see the Rebbe!

They were delighted to spend their first moments with the Rebbe a short time after arriving, when the Rebbe entered the Shul on the first floor of 770 for a minyan for Krias Hatorah. Each one of them had the *zechus* of reciting *Hagomel* in the presence of the Rebbe.

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FLOODGATES
תשרי תשכ"א

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Later that day, the members of the charter davened Mincha with the Rebbe's minyan. When Chazoras Hashatz had ended it was distinctly noticeable that the Rebbe was not saying Tachanun! Immediately the Chazzan launched into Kaddish, in the place of Tachanun.

It is told that in Lubavitch, when a large group of guests arrived in Lubavitch, both Chassidim and the Rebbe didn't recite Tachanun. It seemed that this was the case in the merit of the charter as well!

The events of the day continued to accelerate, when an announcement was made after Ma'ariv that the Rebbe would deliver a maamer at 9:30 that evening.

News spread like wildfire that the Rebbe was holding a special farbrengen because of the arrival of the guests and in connection with the third day of S'lichos⁵, and you can be sure it served to intensify the unique atmosphere of Chassidim visiting "Lubavitch."

WHEN CHAZORAS HASHATZ HAD ENDED IT WAS DISTINCTLY NOTICEABLE THAT THE REBBE WAS NOT SAYING TACHANUN!

The maamer began with the *dibur hamaschil* – "Lecho omar libi" and lasted around 40 minutes.⁶

YECHIDUS

The next night the Mazkirus informed the group that because so many guests had arrived, it wouldn't be possible for all of them to have Yechidus on the same night. Instead Reb Yitzchok Mendel would split them into two groups, and each group would have their Yechidusen on two separate nights – on vov and zayin Tishrei.

On the first night, the Rebbe began the first Yechidus at 8:00 in the evening and ended the last one at 4:30 the next morning, and on the second night ending at 9:00 in the morning – thirteen hours straight!

Reb Shlomo Mandanchik and Horav Shneur Zalman Gorelick each had Yechidusen that lasted about four hours long, during which the Rebbe spoke with them about the most detailed matters pertaining to Kfar Chabad.

Bystanders recall that Reb Chaim Shaul Bruk could not rest as he waited for his turn for Yechidus. Pacing up and down the zal, his face was red as he readied to enter the Rebbe's room. Similarly Reb Avrohom Pariz was visibly shaken as his turn for Yechidus arrived. As he touched the knob of the Rebbe's room, he immediately let go, crying out "I'm scared!"

These Chassidim exemplified how a Chossid prepares himself to enter the Rebbe's room.

When it came Reb Yitzchok Mendel's turn for Yechidus, he entered the Rebbe's room, when suddenly the Rebbe arose from his chair to greet him! With deep emotion Reb Yitzchok Mendel recited "Boruch ato...shehechiyanu v'kiyemanu v'higiyanu lizman haze!"

The Rebbe answered Amen and then said:

"הרב ליס, א גרויסע יישר כח פאר אייך, פאר דעם נחת רוח וואס איר האט געבראכט!"

"Horav Lis, a great Yasher Koiach to you for the nachas ruach you have brought!"

The Yechidus lasted about two hours, during which the Rebbe asked many details about the trip.

Reb Yitzchok Mendel received many horaos from the Rebbe during that Yechidus, in particular regarding the return trip.

MISSING THE OPPORTUNITY

Five of the distinguished members of the charter were privileged to be invited to the Rebbe's personal seudos throughout Tishrei. In middle of the seudah on Motzei Yom Kippur the Rebbe turned to them and said:

“Since it was publicized in the newspapers that five prominent Rabbonim have come here, it would be proper for them to agree to deliver a Psak that Moshiach should come, and then even outside Eretz Yisroel Yom Tov will be one day only, just as in Eretz Yisroel.

Startled, one of the Rabbonim replied: “Of what worth is our agreement, our Psak? The Rebbe needs to merely agree to it and surely Moshiach will arrive!”

The Rebbes face became very serious, and the Rebbe said: “You are casting doubt on the matter?”

Later on during the seduah on the first day of Sukkos, one of these Rabbonim posed a question to the Rebbe about how they were to behave on the second day of Yom Tov which was not kept in Eretz Yisroel.

The Rebbe responded: “Yom tov sheini shel goluyois?!... You had the choice of getting rid of the issue completely on Motzei Yom Kippur!...”

DEVOTED ATTENTION

On the day after Yom Kippur, Rabbi Hodakov notified Reb Leib Kahan (a member of the vaad), that the Rebbe had written out a note for the vaad. In it the Rebbe wished that they write out a detailed report of every part of the trip until now, and that they do so as soon as possible.

Immediately the four members of the vaad gathered and compiled a comprehensive duch about the charter. With it they submitted the many newspaper clippings in connection to it.

At the Rebbe’s request, over Sukkos the guests traveled to many of the surrounding areas, visiting the Yidden and bringing them regards from Eretz Yisroel.

Throughout Simchas Torah and Shabbos Bereishis the Rebbe continued to shower the members of the charter with special affection.

In fact, Reb Yitzchok Mendel was instructed by the Rebbe to split up the

pesukim of Ato Horeisa amongst all of the members of the charter.

During the Farbrengen of Shabbos Bereishis the Rebbe turned to Reb Yitzchok Mendel and asked publicly: “Horav Lis, what was the cost for each person to join the charter?” After making a quick calculation, Reb Yitzchok Mendel responded that it was around 1249 Liriot.

שם	כתובת	מס' תשלום	הערות
ר' יצחק מנדל	1234 מנחת שמואל	1249	
ר' יחזקאל	5678 תורת משה	1249	
ר' שלום	9012 עבודת השם	1249	
ר' יוסף	3456 דרך צדק	1249	
ר' משה	7890 חזון ישעיה	1249	
ר' אברהם	2345 פתח חיים	1249	
ר' יעקב	6789 שו"ת אור חיים	1249	
ר' שמעון	0123 מנחת חינוך	1249	
ר' נחמן	4567 דרך השלום	1249	
ר' יצחק	8901 חזון נחום	1249	
ר' משה	2345 פתח חיים	1249	
ר' אברהם	6789 שו"ת אור חיים	1249	
ר' יעקב	0123 מנחת חינוך	1249	
ר' שמעון	4567 דרך השלום	1249	
ר' נחמן	8901 חזון נחום	1249	

A PARTIAL LIST OF THE PASSENGERS ON THE CHARTER.

The Rebbe called out numerous times: “1249 Liriot they spent in order to get here, but here they sleep...”⁷

Just days after Shabbos Bereishis, Reb Shlomo Madanchik, Reb Leib Cohen, Horav Gorelick and Reb Avrohom Meizelish were summoned by Rabbi Hodakov. He informed them that the Rebbe had instructed that they travel immediately to Montreal.

There they should each meet with their Canadian counterpart. Reb Shlomo, as mayor of Kfar Chabad, should meet with the Mayor of Montreal, Horav Gorelick with the Rabbonim of Montreal, and Rabbis Cohen and Meizelish should meet with those who direct matters of Jewish education in Montreal.

Suddenly the door to the Rebbe’s room opened and the Rebbe emerged! The Rebbe then spoke to the group for approximately two minutes, before they set out on their Shlichus.

OUR OBLIGATION

In a letter written by the Rebbe to Reb Moshe Shayevitch two years before the passing of the Frieddiker Rebbe (Igros Kodesh vol. 2 Igeres 304), the Rebbe emphasizes the responsibility we have to visit our Rebbe during Tishrei. In the letter the Rebbe discusses in depth how pertinent this is, even in Golus:

ב"ה, כ"ד תשרי תש"ח

כבוד הו"ח אי"א גו"נ וכו' מהור"מ שי' הכהן

שלום וברכה!

אמור אמרתי, אשר, כמו בכל שנה, יבוא הנה לימי השמע"צ ושמח"ת ונתראה ונשוחח יחד. וכנראה אשר סיבות מסיבות שונות עכבוהו ולא יכול להוציא לפועל נסיעה זו.

וחבל, וכמרז"ל (ר"ה טז, ב) חייב אדם להקביל פני רבו ברגל. וראה בכסף משנה ברמב"ם הל' ת"ת פ"ה ה"ז.

והנה אף שעתה מקילין בהג"ל, וכמה טעמים נאמרו בזה, הנה עוד אחת יש בזה.

והוא ע"פ הידוע הקושיא במה שאנו אומרים ואין אנו יכולים לעלות ולראות ולהשתחות בפניו, דבשלמא לעלות ולראות אי אפשר מפני היד כו' אבל ההשתחוואה אפשר להיות בכל מקום לפניו ית' כמו ואנחנו כורעים ומשתחוים כו' ולמה צריך לזה ביהמ"ק דוקא.

והתירוץ ע"ז הוא כי יש ב' בחינות בהשתחוואה: (א) השתחוואה חצונית שמשתחוה בגופו, או מדרגה נעלית יותר בהשתחוואה חצונית, שבמעשה בפועל, שזה תלוי בגופו, לא ימרוד במלך מלכי המלכים הקב"ה. (ב) השתחוואה פנימית שנעשה בבחי' ביטול רצונו מפני רצון הקב"ה שאין לו רצון וחפץ אחר כלל, וזהו השתחוואת הנפש. והשתחוואה זו היו מקבלים ישראל ע"י הראי' ברגל בביהמ"ק. ומשחרב ביהמ"ק הגם שאין אנו יכולים להשתחוות עכ"פ נתפשטה קדושת הארה זו אפס קצהו במקדש מעט ביהמ"ק וביהמ"ד והיינו בשעת התפלה (בלקו"ת פ' ברכה ד"ה מזמור שיר - הראשון - פ"ב בארוכה).

והנה רואין אנו במוחש, אשר לבוא למדרגת בטל רצונו שכלך וכל כחות נפשך בלי סיוע - קשה מאד: כי בהכירו ערך עצמו, לא ימצא טעם מספיק שיבטל רצון עצמו מכל וכל. ואדרבה, אם יתקרב לידי הכרה והחלטה שצריך הוא לבטל רצון עצמו, הרי איש שבא להחלטה כזו ה"ה ירא שמים במדרג' חשובה, וא"כ שוב אינו מובן למה אין לו לסמוך על החלטות שכלו ורצונו. והעצה היעוצה היא שיבקש עזר מאדם כזה שמודה הוא בו שעומד למעלה ממדרגתו הוא, ואין לו פניות ח"ו בענינים אלה, שאז בטח ישמע לפקודתו מה שיוהרה בדרכי עבודת ה'. והזמן המסוגל לזה הוא בשלש רגלים וע"ד דוגמא כמו שהי' בזמן שביהמ"ק הי' קיים. והאריכות בזה אך למותר.

ויהי רצון שימלא ע"י מכתבי כ"ק מו"ח אדמו"ר שליט"א, עכ"פ מה שאפשר להביא בכתובה ועד שיתראה אתו פא"פ.

החותם באיווי כט"ס

הרב מנחם שניאורסאהן
יו"ר ועד הפועל

The Shlichus took place with great success, and was covered widely in the local press.

SAYING FAREWELL

Two days before their stay would come to an end, Rabbi Hodakov informed the vaad that the Rebbe had instructed that four directives be given over to the members of the charter:

1. All those traveling in the charter should be careful to heed the law of both the USA and Eretz Yisroel
2. Those that received a Shlichus from the Rebbe during their time in New York should give a detailed duch about it to the Rebbe.
3. Those that wrote personal diaries of the trip give a copy to the Rebbe.
4. Before heading to the airport, all the travelers should bring their luggage to 770, and from 770 they should go as a group to the airport.

During their last nights in New York the guests were informed that the Rebbe would have a Yechidus with each of them that evening. Just like the previous Yechidus, they were split into two groups and had Yechidus on two separate nights.

Many of the guests noticed the sense of joy that was recognizable on the Rebbe's face, giving them great energy. After their Yechidus the Chassidim sat down to farbrengen and review what the Rebbe had told them.

ONE FLIGHT TO OPEN THE FLOODGATES

∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞

תשרי תשכ"א



THE REBBE SPEAKS TO REB LEIBEL KAHAN WHILE SEEING OFF THE GROUP OF CHASSIDIM WHO HAD FLOWN ON THE CHARTER. JEM/THE LIVING ARCHIVE / 102848

Following an additional Yechidus Klolis for the residents of Kfar Chabad on their final night in New York the Rebbe held a Farbrengen especially in honor of the Chassidim traveling back to Eretz Yisroel.

During the Farbrengen the Rebbe expounded on the words of chaza"ו: גדולה לגימיה שמקרבית, explaining that through coming together now and saying Lechaim they could maintain a bond *b'pnimiyus* even though they would be separated from the Rebbe *b'gashmiyus*...


The Rebbe also said a maamer titled "*Al yipater adam meichaveiro ela mitoich d'var halocha*" highlighting the fact that Chassidim were taking leave of the Rebbe.

Before they departed from 770, the Rebbe himself came out of 770 and saw the guests dance whom subsequently boarded the busses to the airport. The expression of emotion on the Rebbe's face was visible to all.

A day earlier Rabbi Hodakov had announced that the Rebbe had instructed that everyone should escort the members of the charter to the airport! Scores of Anash and Bochorim streamed behind the busses to the airport, and gathered together inside the airport.

Shortly before the flight was to leave a small Tzeischem L'shalom was held in the airport, where Rabbis Mentlik and Yitzchok Dovid Groner addressed the crowd. Reb Yitzchok spoke passionately:

"We need to draw upon the energy we soaked in while being together with the Rebbe and share its warmth with people wherever your destination may be."

The Chassidim burst into dancing of "Tayere brider..." tears streaming down their face as they mounted the plane... In their hearts burned a deep desire, "*v'sechezena eineinu bshuvcha l'tziyon b'rachamim!*" 

1. Igros Kodesh vol. 19 Igeres 1112
2. This airport was renamed JFK Airport, and has since seen thousands of Chassidim on their way to visit *chatzros kodsheinu*.
3. The main complications was due to that they had brought lulavim with them, a plant from another country which is forbidden to be brought to the USA.
4. See A Chassidisher Derher magazine, Sivan 5774.
5. "Yom Gimmel D'slichos" is a day that was often marked by the Frierdiker Rebbe by a maamer. See the Sichas of 23 Elul 5751.
6. The next day, some of the elderly Chassidim who were part of the charter met with Rabbi Hodakov and asked him to relay a request to the Rebbe in their name to the Rebbe, if he could be magiah the Maamer so they could review it. Rabbi Hodakov promised that he would, but in the end the maamer was not checked over by the Rebbe at that time. Interestingly, thirty years later the Rebbe was magiah the maamer and it was published in the Kuntres Gimmel D'slichos 5749, Sefer Maamorim Melukat Tammuz-Elul, pg 281.
7. Referring to some individuals who had dozed off at the Rebbe's Farbrengen.