



7 TISHREI 5752, JEM Va CHAMB HALBERSTAM B5851

לזכות
הרה"ת ר' דניאל זכריה אליעזר
וזוגתו מרת פערל
ומשפחתם שיחיו
גולדהירש



After the Dust Settled

BRACHA TO SHLUCHIM AT
MACHNE ISRAEL DEVELOPMENT FUND MEETINGS

The very personal attention that the Rebbe devoted to the creation and guidance of the Machne Israel Development Fund,¹ was indicative of this being a project that went far beyond the ordinary. The Rebbe even personally drafted the mission charter of MIDF in his holy handwriting. Shluchim considered it a privilege to be able to participate in the fund by involving their own supporters to contribute, and join its bi-annual meetings with the Rebbe.

These events were held in great fanfare, with the climax being the opportunity to hear a *sicha* from the Rebbe, and a few minutes for private conversation.

As is well known, the men and women who participated were given the rare opportunity to

speak in private with the Rebbe, and receive his holy counsel and *bracha* in their business, family life, and more.

The shluchim that attended, however, acted more as liaisons to introduce their supporters to the Rebbe, only at times did they speak with the Rebbe on their own.

Yet, at the event's end, when the *baalei batim* would leave, and the shluchim were thus absolved of their formal responsibilities towards their guests, they naturally all gravitated towards the Rebbe, accompanying the Rebbe back to his room upstairs in 770. Many of those who participated fondly recall this special moment, as the zenith of their own attendance at the MIDF. The shluchim together, standing before the *meshale'ach*, after



4 TISHREI 5750, JEM via S SHLAGBAUM 148596

a whirlwind of emotions, seeing the Rebbe's satisfaction.

On the first few occasions, the Rebbe would address the shluchim—standing crammed together at the threshold of his room, with a brief remark—thanking them and *benching* them with *hatzlacha* in the continuation of their shlichus, and for *parnasah*.

Later on, as the Rebbe's delivery of this *bracha* became longer and the crowd grew larger, it was moved to the downstairs shul, where it was either prefaced or followed by a distribution of *lekach* or dollars solely for the shluchim.

On one occasion, on 4 Tishrei 5750, the Rebbe *benched* the shluchim with many attributes, each

beginning with a different letter of the *Aleph-Bais*, in alphabetical order.

Another time, the Rebbe began singing his father's *hakafos niggun*, while waiting for the dollar bills to arrive for distribution.

Pictured here we can see the evolution of this *bracha*. First in a more casual fashion in *Gan Eden Hatachton*, as all the shluchim gathered there, subsequently being delivered downstairs at the end of the program, with the Rebbe sitting and a microphone at hand, and finally the distribution of *lekach* which either followed or preceded the *sicha*, as mentioned. ¹

¹ See *A Chassidisher Derher* issue 35 - Elul 5775 for a comprehensive overview of the creation and history of MIDE.



5 TISHREI 5748, JEM via LEVI FREIDIN 7291