

# Brazilian Delegation

**TEVES, 5739** 

# MONDAY NIGHT, EVE OF CHOF-DALED TEVES

During the afternoon, it was announced that there would be a farbrengen tonight. The farbrengen began at the usual time, 9:30 p.m.

On the way into the farbrengen, the Rebbe smiled to Reb Sholom Hecht. In the first *sicha*, the Rebbe spoke about the Alter Rebbe's style of spreading Chassidus and that of the Frierdiker Rebbe. After the *sicha*, the Rebbe had some cake and wine, and said *l'chaim*. During the *niggun* the

Rebbe said *l'chaim* and smiled to Mr. David Rosen (visiting with a group from Brazil; more on this below).

After the third sicha, the Rebbe asked that the pre-maamar niggun be sung and then said the maamar "Habo'im Yashreish Yaakov." During the niggun after the maamar, the Rebbe clapped along vigorously.

Towards the end of the farbrengen, they sang the *Niggun Hachanah* and the Alter Rebbe's *Niggun* followed by *Nye Zhuritzi*. The Rebbe then requested that everyone should study the Torah of the Alter Rebbe [in nigleh and Chassidus] during the day of Chof-Daled Teves.

Niggun Shalosh Tenu'os was sung, followed by Ani Ma'amin. The Rebbe then started Nyet Nyet Nikavo, clapping along with great vigor.

Walking out of the farbrengen the Rebbe encouraged the singing of Ki Besimcha all the way to the elevator. When the Rebbe came upstairs he stopped to speak with Rabbi Klapman for a minute in Gan Eden Hatachton.

At 12:25 a.m. the Rebbe left his room and headed home. Again, the Rebbe smiled at Reb Sholom Hecht, as well as Mr. Henry Rhiner and Rabbi Yaakov Yehuda Hecht.

All the way until (and even when inside!) the car the Rebbe encouraged the singing of "Ki Besimcha."

### **CHOF-DALED TEVES**

During the morning, Rabbi Piekarski gave a shiur kloli on Birchos Hanehenin, as the Rebbe had requested (to study the Torah of the Alter Rebbe) at the farbrengen the night before. The zal was packed with all the bochurim learning in 770 and Chovevei Torah.

At 2:00 p.m. the Rebbe went to the Ohel. Before leaving, he glanced in the zal, where the shiur was still going on.

The yeshiva of Oholei Torah sent the Rebbe a booklet prepared by the bochurim with questions and answers and marei mekomos on the recent (Likkutei) Sichos. The response (a few days later, on Friday) was "נת' ות"ח ודבר בעתו - בסמיכות לכ"ד טבת הילולא דאדה"ז, אזכיר עה"צ—Received. Thank you. It was time-appropriate, close to 24 Teves—the

FREIDIN VIA JEM 191719

BOCHURIM LEARN IN THE SMALL ZAL, UPSTAIRS 770, 5739.

hillullah of the Alter Rebbe. I will mention it at the Ohel."

Just before maariv, Rabbi Binyomin Klein called over Rabbi Moshe Feller (shliach in Minnesota, who was on his way to Washington to meet Senator Rudy Boschwitz of who had become close to Chabad of Minnesota) and told him the Rebbe wanted to speak to him. Rabbi Feller waited in Gan Eden Hatachton where the Rebbe spoke to him for a few minutes. As the Rebbe was talking, he went into his room and brought out the two English volumes on the life and philosophy of the Alter Rebbe, and gave them to Rabbi Feller for Senator Boschwitz.

When the Rebbe went out into the foyer, Rabbi Feller's son was standing next to the big *pushka*. The Rebbe took out some coins and asked Rabbi Feller whether his son would also be going to Washington, to which he responded affirmatively. The Rebbe gave the boy some coins, and told him to give them to tzedakah. After taking a few steps forward, the Rebbe turned back to them and wished them "פארט געזונטערהייט און הערן בשורות טובות—Have a safe trip and may we hear good news."

Mr. Katch from England was waiting there too. The Rebbe asked whether he received the message that had been sent to him. Mr. Katch confirmed that he had. The Rebbe smiled and blessed him that he should have a lot of nachas, then continued on to the car.

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# 25 TEVES

After mincha, the Rebbe spoke to the Oren family from Brazil in Gan Eden Hatachton prior to their return home.

The Rebbe started in English, "Thank you for your help [to Chabad in Brazil]." He then blessed Mr. Oren with success in business and in spreading Yiddishkeit here [America] and there [Brazil].

Accompanying them was Rabbi Yosef Wineberg who told the Rebbe that Mr. Oren's sister is also flying today. She mentioned that she understood French, so the Rebbe repeated everything in French for her. The Rebbe then said with a smile, "Are there any other languages we need to talk in?"

### 26 TEVES

The Rebbe arrived from home shortly after 10:00 a.m. and joined the *minyan* for *krias haTorah*, putting some coins in the *pushka* on his way in. After *kriah*, the Rebbe said Tehillim *kapitel* 77 (his *kapitel*), and the first and last *possuk* of 78 (the Rebbetzin's *kapitel*).

In the hallway from the *zal* to his room, the Rebbe exchanged words with Mr. Kay, a lawyer from Yerushalayim who was waiting there. The Rebbe greeted him with a smile and "*Shalom aleichem*." After a brief conversation about his work, the Rebbe wished him success and good news.

## SHABBOS VA'EIRA, 28 TEVES

At 8:30 a.m., the Rebbe joined the *minyan* for Tehillim, which he recited while seated. After Tehillim the Rebbe went to his room, returning at 10:35 for *shacharis*. In the afternoon, the Rebbe went home for about an hour.

Upon his return to 770 after Shabbos, the Rebbe spoke to Mr. Henry Rhiner. He had been taken to the hospital that morning, and the Rebbe asked whether he was feeling okay, and if there was anything wrong with his heart. Mr. Rhiner responded that his heart was fine. The Rebbe then told him to take the heart pills he was given and not to worry about it. "I take them too. Be well." Mr. Rhiner responded that the Rebbe needs to be well too. The Rebbe then told him that during the farbrengen he should say at least two or three *l'chaims*.

The Rebbe came down by elevator to the Motzei Shabbos Mevorchim farbrengen at 9:30 p.m. Once at his place, the Rebbe nodded in greeting to someone.

After the third *sicha*, Mr. Rosen (from Brazil) said *l'chaim*. The Rebbe smiled at him, and then started clapping. This was followed by the *maamar niggun* and the *maamar "Va'era el Avraham*." The Rebbe then said a *sicha* on Rashi, *said l'chaim* on most of the cup of wine, and said a fifth *sicha*.

At the end of the last *sicha*, the Rebbe said "מען זאל אריינטאנצן צו די גאולה מיט א ריקוד עצום וואס" שען זאל אריינטאנצן צו די גאולה מיט א לע רמ"ח אברים "We should dance to the *geulah* with intense dancing, using all of our 248 limbs." The Rebbe then began his father's *hakafos niggun*. Suddenly, the Rebbe stood up and began to dance in his place, clapping along intensely! (We haven't merited to see this sight in quite a while.)





The Rebbe's head was down with his eyes closed. This continued for a full two minutes and then the Rebbe sat down. He signaled that the singing should continue and a smile could be seen on his face.

The Rebbe recited a *bracha acharona* and then started the *niggun* again. While leaving the shul to the elevator, as well as when exiting the elevator upstairs, the Rebbe waved his arm strongly to the singing.

On the path leaving 770, Mr. Rhiner spoke to the Rebbe briefly, and the Rebbe wished him "gut voch." Two people stretched out their hands, and when the Rebbe accepted their handshake, they shook and kissed the Rebbe's hand.

All the way to the car the Rebbe continuously encouraged the singing.

You are the boss of the whole city, [and] through the whole city also of the whole country.

# 29 TEVES

When the Rebbe came in the morning, the Brazilian group—accompanied by Rabbi Shabsi Alpern (the shliach who had brought the group) and Mr. Rosen—were waiting to meet the Rebbe, as they would be leaving later that day.

Rebbe: When are you leaving?

Rabbi Alpern: Today im yirtzeh Hashem.

Rebbe: What time?

Rabbi Alpern: At 6:00 p.m. The flight leaves at 8:00.

Rebbe: Will you manage to be here for *mincha*? Rabbi Alpern: We'll be here *im yirtzeh Hashem*.

Rebbe: But I'm going to the Ohel today. (I.e. *mincha* will be much later than the scheduled time, and you won't be able to attend *mincha* and still catch the flight.)

Rabbi Alpern: Now, we have decided to remain. The Rebbe then turned to Mr. Rosen: פארט

The Rebbe then turned to Mr. Rosen: נארט פארט און זאל זיין בשורות טובות און א גרויסן דאנק געזונטערהייט און זאל זיין בשורות טובות און א גרויסן דאנק —Safe travels, may we share good news, and thank you very much for visiting. The Rebbe continued in English: "It was my pleasure, and may the Almighty bless you in the near future to come again and in a happy opportunity."

Mr. Rosen: Thank you!

Rebbe: And with joy and glad hearts.

Mr. Rosen: I saw yesterday that the Rebbe was very happy.

Rebbe: True, but it must be even more. Every day one must ensure that there is good news. I will leave [with the secretariat] an answer for your last two letters and give you another few dollars to be given to tzedakah when you get back. [In English:] You are the boss of the whole city, [and] through the whole city also of the whole country. I'll give you a few dollars, and you will give them to tzedakah.

The Rebbe then asked Rabbi Alpern whether they understood English, Yiddish or French best, or for the Rebbe to talk and Rabbi Alpern would translate.

The Rebbe turned back to Mr. Rosen, and said (in French), "Hashem should bless you with all you need and with joy. I received your wife's letter." The



Rebbe then repeated in English, "I received through you a letter from your wife. Please give her my regards with all the necessary benedictions. Thank you very much."

Again, the Rebbe wished them a safe journey.

When the Rebbe came in for *mincha-maariv* after his return from the Ohel, the group was there. The Rebbe looked at them with a big smile and a surprised look. After mincha the Rebbe spoke again briefly with Rabbi Alpern and Mr. Rosen in Gan Eden Hatachton.

Rebbe: Did you get delayed?

They replied that when the Rebbe asked whether they would be here for mincha, they realized that they should stay.

The Rebbe smiled, and wished them good news and success.

Mr. Rosen then said that in his letter to the Rebbe he wrote about love and closeness, which is expressed through a kiss. "I'd like to express this feeling to the Rebbe."

The Rebbe extended his hand, and he kissed it.

Mr. Rosen asked, what [hachlatah] he should do as a result of this [feeling of closeness from their encounter]?

Rebbe: Be proactive in Yiddishkeit in your home, in my home, in Alpern's home, in the Chabad House and in the city.

The Rebbe concluded with a bracha in French. 1



