

THE REBBE AND REBBETZIN'S JOURNEY

The following are three historic documents about the Rebbe and Rebbetzin's miraculous escape from war-torn Europe and their safe arrival in the United States, celebrated on Chof-Ches Sivan:

On Erev Shavuos 5700, as the Nazis ימ"ש advanced onto Paris, the Rebbe and Rebbetzin escaped from Paris to Vichy, where they lived for a few months. Later they moved to Nice, where they tried obtaining visas for immigration to the United States. In Teves 5701, the Rebbe learned that the American Consulate in Marseille was much more generous with visas, and asked the Frierdiker Rebbe to send the necessary papers to Marseille. The Rebbe and Rebbetzin succeeded in obtaining the visas shortly thereafter, as well as transit visas for a stop in Lisbon, Portugal, from where they would travel by boat to the United States. In Iyar 5701, the Rebbe and Rebbetzin arrived in Lisbon, where they remained until boarding the boat to New York, approximately one month later, on 17 Sivan.

Presented here are three telegrams:

1. A telegram from the Frierdiker Rebbe dated the end of Shevat 5701 to Barcelona, asking what else he should do to help the case along.
2. Another telegram from the Frierdiker Rebbe dated the beginning of Adar 5701 to Barcelona, asking for an update on the case.
3. A telegram from the American Consulate in Marseille dated 21 Adar 5701, notifying the Frierdiker Rebbe that all was in order for the Rebbe and Rebbetzin's trip from Lisbon to New York.

WRITTEN BY:
RABBI MENDEL JACOBS

1

[To:] Barcelona
Brooklyn, NY
Please cable fully what else must I
do to expedite Schneersohn ca(a)s
Ra(a)bbi Sch(e)neersohn



2

[To:] Barcelona
Brooklyn, NY
Please cable position Schneersohn case
[Signed] = Schneersohn =



3

[Translation from French]
April 17 [20 Nissan 5701]
Consulate General of the United States
Marseille
Re: Schneerson, Mendel, and wife
SR/SW
Messieurs,
We are pleased to confirm that our office in Lis-
bon have arranged for Mr. and Mrs. Schneerson
the trip from Lisbon to New York no later than
15 July [20 Tammuz 5701].
Please accept, Messieurs, our esteemed
salutations.
SL
Cable sent from New York 20/3 [21 Adar]
Deposit of 840 US dollars.
Telegram sent from Lisbon 24/3 [25 Adar]

