

A-207

757

CONGREGATION KODIMOH

SPRINGFIELD 8, MASSACHUSETTS

N.Lamm

Shabbos Cho. Hamoed Pesach

March 31, 1956

1. ~~Chief~~ Rabbi Herzog: this Saturday SHABBAT ALIYAH... "going up", traditional term for emigration from Diaspora to Israel.
2. Unnecessary to convince of spiritual, economic and brotherly bonds between us and Jewish community State Israel.... But how about Aliyah?
3. Of course, not suggesting all American Jews pack up and go to Israel foreseeable future. Tremendous practical obstacles, let alone lack will power. To do this would require major miracle, and that better left to Messiah. We mustn't usurp all his prerogatives, leave him unemployed.
4. But, other hand: does that mean no Aliyah at all? Only tourism, alternative Swiss Alps or Monte Carlo or Riviera?.....Never, never!Three reasons for urging Aliyah:
5. First: simple religious reason - is a MITZVAH, and a very important one.....
—Gershuni: why Rambam not count YISHUV ERETZ YISRAEL as Mitzvah (Ramban objects strenuously) because MITZVAH given only on things which normally would not do. But that which is basically natural.....unnecessary. Thus, supremely natural people tied to Land.....
6. Second: Necessary for Israel. Just as tourism and charity necessary ECONOMY, so is Aliyah necessary for MORALE. When Jews from wealthiest J.Community world also immigrate, then they know that they are fashioning country prophets, seers, pioneers fought for. Otherwise is only haven charity-cases....Without Aliyah, bonds between these two greatest remaining J.Communities world bound to dissolve.
7. From this 3rd follows: necessary for spiritual survival American Jewry. Once Israel independent economic assistance, what will be bond us & them?
—How we teach children Bible, History, Talmud, when on onehand we discourage Aliyah, on other so much of all our sacred literature stresses centrality ERETZ YISRAEL?.....
—Religiously we rooted Israel, just as politically our loyalty to USA. If we abandon idea Aliyah, we undercut entire structure our religion.
—Another generation faced problem Am. Jewry, and answered it likewise. Exiles Babylon: EICH NASHIR ES SHIR HA'SHEM AL ADMAS NEICHAR? How live old religion, which grew up in Israel, in new and strange land? How make Torah of Israel viable on ADMAS NEICHAR of Babylon- or America? How teach and live Torah, sing song of G-d, when distracted by lofty towers of idol Bel rising from cities of Babylon, or when distracted by gigantic factories and palaces of entertainment situated in bustling metropolis of materialistic America? Can it be done? Give up? Despair? — — — NO, not despair, can be done. How?...IM ESH'KACHEICH YERUSHALAYIM TISH'KACH YEMINI, TIDBAK...raised right hands and solemnly swore, while eyes flooded tears and hearts steeled with determination and souls flooded love, never forget Jerusalem....but more than that: also: IM LO AALEH ES YERUSHALAYIM AL ROSH SIMCHASI....Aliyah!
8. You may ask: if I know you not go, why speak? Answer: never to forget that it still remains sacred obligation, and our non-compliance not negate the the real obligation. ME TOO....
9. But most important: Children. Don't discourage them. We not saddened by child as engineer to Argentina or scholar to Italy or economist in South Africa, but regard as tragedy if OLEH to Israel.....IM ESHKACHEICH....

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-2- Chol Hamoed ^resach

10. What I have said about Aliyah remains true no matter how wonderful conditions here. Reemphasize that does not mean despise of Judaism in USA. Very far from it. But does mean that Israel must always attract pioneers from amongst us.

11. And would say this even if we had the most wonderful flowering religion here in states.

12. In the moving dialogue we read today, Song of Songs concludes with following two verses from beloved to lover: HA'YOSHEVESS BA'GANIM, CHAVEIRIM MAKSHIVIM L'KOLEICH, HASHMT'INI. BRACH DODI U'DMEI LACH L'TZVI O L'OFER HA'AYALIM AL HAREI VSAMIM - O thou that dwellest in the gardens, thy companions hearken for thy voice, let me hear it. Make haste my beloved, and be thou like a gazelle or a young deer upon the mountains of spices.

And Rashi, following Sages Midrash: YOSHEVESS BAKANIM is ^Israil in Diaspora
CHAVEIRIM MAKSHIVIM ... is ministering angels who come to listen to beauty of
voices of Jews raised in prayer and study coming from synagogues

....how wonderful! in midst GALUT, all this flowering religion.....

AND YET: BRACH DODI...MIN HA'GOLAH HA'ZOS....AL HAREI ~~BA~~ VSAMIM - HU HAR HA'MORIAH UVEIS
HA'MIKDASH.... No, religious Judaism cannot take root in Golah unless at least part
of it keeps up stream Aliyah, keeps fleeing to HAR MORIAH, keeps feeding flames G-dliness
exchanging warmth and light between us and Holy Land.

13. If we discourage ALIYAH, we violate an important religious commandment, we harm Israel
and we threaten Jewish future our own children;

if we encourage Aliyah, we fulfill our obligation before G-d, we help Israel, and we ensure
fact that we, as a religious community, certainly have a future in this country, that as
long as we do not forget Jerusalem and continue to send of our youth to go up to her in
happiness, we shall be able to sing the song of the Lord even on soil otherwise unfit
for religious flowering.

14. May G-d grant that we support Aliyah as is our sacred duty; that Israel remain strong
and stable; and that we in America be assured of a great future for Torah here, until the
True ^{re}deemer comes to Zion, Amen.