BSD

ERETZ ISRAEL BULLETIN 192

WORLD ALLIANCE FOR THE CORRECTION OF THE SIN OF THE SPIES

"LIVING IN ERETZ ISRAEL IS THE EQUIVALENT OF ALL THE MITZVOT OF THE TORAH" (SIFRE, PARASHAT REE)

LEARN THE LESSON AND DO NOT FOLLOW ON THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SPIES

WARNING AGAINST FEELING AT HOME IN THE DIASPORA

The main reason for the inability to create a mass aliyah movement in Hungary and Austria seems to have been the relatively comfortable and benign conditions enjoyed by Jews in those lands. The fiery exhortations of the Chasam Sofer to make every possible effort to leave the galus were counteracted by the benevolent conditions prevailing in the wake of the Emancipation and the granting of equal rights to Jews. The Chasam Sofer had to warn constantly against the dangers of assimilation and attachment to the galus that attended the great improvement in the conditions and financial status of Jews in the diaspora. On the other hand, the persecutions, pogroms and highly anti-semitic climate of Russia, Lithuania, and Poland spurred great interest in leaving the Diaspora for the Promised Land. Despite his limited success in fostering Hungarian and Austrian emigration, the Chasam Sofer was greatly successful in organizing institutions in Hungary to support the yishuv in Eretz Israel and to subsidize new immigrants. The funds were sent via Amsterdam, which was then the chief channel of funds to the Holy Land.

FROM SEFER HA ISH AL HA CHOMA

And exile to outside the Land is a grave.

'Since the Temple was destroyed, our spirit and our crown departed, and only we remained, the body without the soul. And exile to outside the Land is a grave. Worms surround us there, and we do not have the power to save ourselves. They, the idol worshippers, it is they who devour our flesh. In every place there were great societies and Yeshivot, until the body decayed, and the bones scattered, again and again. Yet, always, some bones still existed, the Talmidi Chachamim of the Israelite nation, the pillars of the body - until even these bones rotted, and there only remained a rancid waste which disintegrated into dust - our life turned into dust... Likutei HaGra, at the end of Safra D'Tzniuta

PLEASE HASHEM SAVE US FROM THE SIN OF THE SPIES WHO SPOKE LASHON HARA AGAINST ERETZ ISRAEL. LET US CORRECT THE SIN OF "THEY DESPISED THE DESIRABLE LAND" (TEHILLIM 106) FOR IN THIS WAY WE BRING CLOSER THE COMPLETE GEULA WHEN YOUR NAME WILL BE SANCTIFIED IN THE WORLD AND YOUR NATION ISRAEL SHALL BE EXALTED AND YOUR BEIT HA MIKDASH REBUILT MAY THIS BE SOON IN OUR DAYS, AMEN YEHI RATZON