



שר ירושלים ומסורת ישראל



Minister of Jerusalem and Jewish Tradition

1st May 2024
23rd Nissan 5784

Mr. Petr Papousek
Chairman, Federation of Jewish Communities ČR
Maiselova 18
11000 Prague, Czechia

Dear Mr. Papousek

I am writing to you as Israel's Minister of Jerusalem & Jewish Tradition, as well as Chairman of Central Agudat Israel, Jerusalem.

It has been brought to my attention the concerning matter of Jewish people from throughout the world especially from Israel who wish to make the annual pilgrimage as well as visits throughout the year to the Cemetery and the grave of the world renown Reb **Shmuel Shmelke HaLevi Horowitz of Nikolsburg** aka as the **Rebbe Reb Shmelke** who is buried at the cemetery in Mikulov. We understand that Jewish pilgrims are in need of a full time, year round facility within the Ceremonial Hall building behind the gates of the Jewish Cemetery and access, many times on short notice, day or night to the Main Synagogue on Husova Street in Mikulov as well as easy access to the cemetery itself.

On January 29, 2024, I met with the Czech Ambassador to Israel Mrs. Veronika Kuchynova Smigolova at my office in Jerusalem with a delegation of members of the Ministry together with the Grand Rabbi of Boston, Rabbi Meir Horowitz to hear the above request of the Bostoner Rebbe. We have been receiving many written and oral complaints from numerous Jewish visitors who are unable to gain access and utilize the Jewish buildings in Mikulov without going through time consuming correspondence and signing a contract for each and every group or sometimes individual visits.

The Czech Ambassador after investigating the matter referred our concerns to you and pledged her cooperation to help us to try reaching an agreement favorable to all parties involved.

We would like to bring to your attention that Jewish visitors travel throughout Europe to pay respect and pray at the Graves of leading Grand Rabbis and kabbalists from previous generations. Most of these places are open 24/7 and some are open upon request with a local phone number who has the key and can gain entrance at short notice. These visits are growing daily throughout Europe



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and when we meet we can elaborate more. There is no need to explain the amount of tourism & income this attracts to the Cities & Countries involved.

We would like to schedule an in person meeting with you to discuss the future cooperation between the Federation of Jewish Communities, its partners and the Israel Ministry of Jewish tradition.

We understand that Mr. Samuel Fleischman has been working diligently, serving visiting Jewish groups on behalf of the Horowitz Family of Israel, Europe & the U.S., since 2003.

We believe that it is in our mutual interests to improve the present situation in Mikulov as soon as possible. Mr. Fleischman and the Horowitz family have been trying to reach an amiable agreement with the Jewish Community of Brno since their first meeting in 2006. I am sure that we can come to some understanding in the near future.

Many thanks and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours

Rabbi Meir Porush
Minister of Jerusalem & Jewish Tradition.
Chairman, Central Agudat Israel, Jerusalem

CC:

Boston Rebbe, Rabbi Horowitz

Rabbi A.D.Davis, International Division, Agudat Israel