

archy, as well. After the Soviets had captured Vilna in 1940, all commercial enterprises were closed. All of the property which had been confiscated was placed in the government treasury. The Refugee Organization which was formed was the largest of the Soviet-regulated institutions and its budget amounted to over two hundred thousand dollars a month. An investigatory commission, under a high Soviet Jewish official, was sent by the government for the purpose of searching the records of the institution for any possible mishandling of funds. After much careful searching of files and endless hours of questioning, the sum of 300 Lit was discovered without any record of the recipient of the funds, and the person responsible for the donation was Rav Chaim Ozer Grodzensky.

Immediately, the Director of the Refugee Organization, Mr. Zaretski, was summoned before the investigating commission and was asked to reveal to what purpose the unaccounted sum of 300 Lit had been devoted. If he could not satisfactorily explain what had become of the money, he was told, he would face a criminal indictment and a trial of unknown consequences. Mr. Zaretski replied that the amount had been paid under the direction of Rav Chaim Ozer to an anonymous recipient, and that he was not prepared to go against his wishes by revealing the name of the man who had received the money. He would stand by this decision come what may. The case was then brought before the Soviet official in charge of the commission, who was a native of Kovno. When the situation had been explained to him, he arose and declared firmly, erasing all possible misconception, 'Once the signature of Rav Chaim Ozer is affixed thereunto, there is no room ever for doubt, the situation is crystal clear and perfectly in order!'