

CHAPTER SEVEN

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT

In the period following the First World War, as the European Yeshivoth grew in number and strength and, correspondingly, in their financial requirements, the money coming from America, the main source of financial support, failed to satisfy their largely expanded budgets. From the direction of the Joint Distribution Committee came the demand that Polish Jewry should contribute to the support of its own institutions. But it was one thing to suggest such a plan, quite another to put it into practice, for the Jews of Poland found it difficult to adequately support their own families, let alone to produce additional funds for the support of educational and Klall institutions.

A solution had urgently to be discovered and a conference was held for this purpose in 1924. The Chofetz Chaim, in the major address, inspired the establishment of the Vaad Hayeshivoth. Each Jew of Eastern Poland was taxed a minimum of a dollar every half-year for the support of the Vaad Hayeshivoth. Before the enthused assemblage of prominent Rabbis and Orthodox Jews, the novel decree was read and arrangements were concluded to establish various branches of the Vaad Hayeshivoth through visits of famous Rabbonim to the large Jewish centers. Six years later, at a meeting of the executive board of the organization, it was decided that the best interests of the Vaad would