

of subject peoples quaked in terror. Everyone was suspect of revolution and all types of organizations were abolished, one after the another. The 'Knesseth Israel' headquarters in Vilna received an order from the district leader to close its doors and terminate its affairs. The governor of the province informed them that they were not, in truth, suspect of revolutionary activities but that the question was no longer in his hands. The order had come from above.

Rav Chaim Ozer, however, refused to surrender. In a bold but inconspicuous manner, he organized Chinuch groups, yeshivas and talmud torahs in many Russian communities. He appointed capable and intelligent men who could handle the difficult situation as the heads of these institutions. His home in Vilna became the headquarters for Orthodox Russian Jewry in particular, and European Jewry, in general.