



AMBASSADOR
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO THE USA

April 4, 2017

Dear Senator Schumer,

I have the honor to inform You that the U.S. Senators' letter addressed to the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin with a request to return the so-called Schneerson collection to Chabad religious community has been considered.

In this connection I would like to draw Your attention to the groundlessness of Chabad claims. It is established that the Schneerson library was created and replenished in our country and has never left its territory. The collection is part of the cultural heritage of the multinational and multiconfessional people of Russia, including those who practice Judaism.

The Schneerson library belongs to the Russian State Library funds, which form an inalienable state property. Taking into consideration the interest of citizens who practice Judaism, the "religious library" for several years has been located at the Center of Tolerance in the Moscow Jewish museum where they are now accessible for scientific purposes as well as for religious practices.

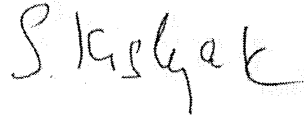
THE HONORABLE CHARLES ELLIS SCHUMER
UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR NEW YORK

Washington, DC

On their side, Chabad representatives have never owned the Schneerson collection and have had no property rights over it. Nevertheless, they can work freely in Moscow with the religious books they are interested in.

Regrettably, instead of showing a constructive approach, Chabad religious community for more than 20 years has been pursuing a senseless dispute with Russia in order to alienate Russian state property. At the same time, Chabad unlawfully retains several books from the collection, which the Russian State Library loaned to the Library of Congress in 1994 under international inter-library exchange.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Kislyak". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Sergey Kislyak