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By the Grace of G-d
15th of Shevat 5734
Brooklyn, N.Y.

To All Participants in the
First European Convention
of the Neshei uBnos Chabad,
London, England.

Blessings and Greeting;

I was pleased to be informed about your forthcoming Convention. May G-d grant that it should be with the utmost Hatzlocho in every respect.

In accordance with the well known adage of the Alter Rebbe, to the effect that "a Jew should live with the time", that is to say, in the spirit of the current weekly Sidra, it is to be hoped that the Convention will be inspired by the Sidra Terumah, with which it coincides.

The word Terumah has two meanings; in the plain sense it means a contribution to a sacred cause, as in the case of the Sidra - the building of the Mishkon (Sanctuary) in the desert.

In a deeper sense, Terumah means "elevating". Both meanings go hand in hand together, because by making a contribution to a sacred cause connected with Torah and Mitzvos, the donor "elevates" not only the money from its material state to a higher spiritual plain, but thereby also elevates his whole being, with all the energy and effort that went into earning the money contributed to the sacred cause.

It is well known that in connection with the building of the Mishkon - the first great undertaking after Mattan Torah, designed to make a Sanctuary for the Divine Presence in the midst of the Jewish people - the women excelled themselves above the men, as indicated in the verse, "And the men came (following) upon the women." (Exodus 35:22)

It has often been emphasized that the Torah, Toras Chaim, meaning instruction and guide in life, provides practical instruction in every detail of its narratives, and being eternal, its teachings are eternal for all times and places. Thus, the above mentioned vignette in the story of the building of the Mishkon provides a significant instruction that whenever a great Mitzvah or sacred task is to be undertaken, Jewish women have been given special capacities to be first and foremost in carrying it out with dedication and enthusiasm.

The greatest task in the present day and age is to revitalize Yiddishkeit and spread it among those of our brethren, men and women, who are not as yet fully committed to Torah and Mitzvos. And in this task there is much that each and every Jewish woman can accomplish, and even much more can be accomplished by a concerted effort, such as your forthcoming Convention.

I therefore hope and pray that the Convention, the first of Neshei uBnos Chabad in the United Kingdom, will fulfill all its expectations, and will set in motion a veritable chain reaction of continued and growing accomplishments in the way of strengthening and spreading Yiddishkeit. May each and all of you make the most of your opportunities and capacities, and carry out all your activities in accordance with Chassidic teaching - with vitality and enthusiasm, with joy and gladness of heart.

With blessing

M. Schneerson