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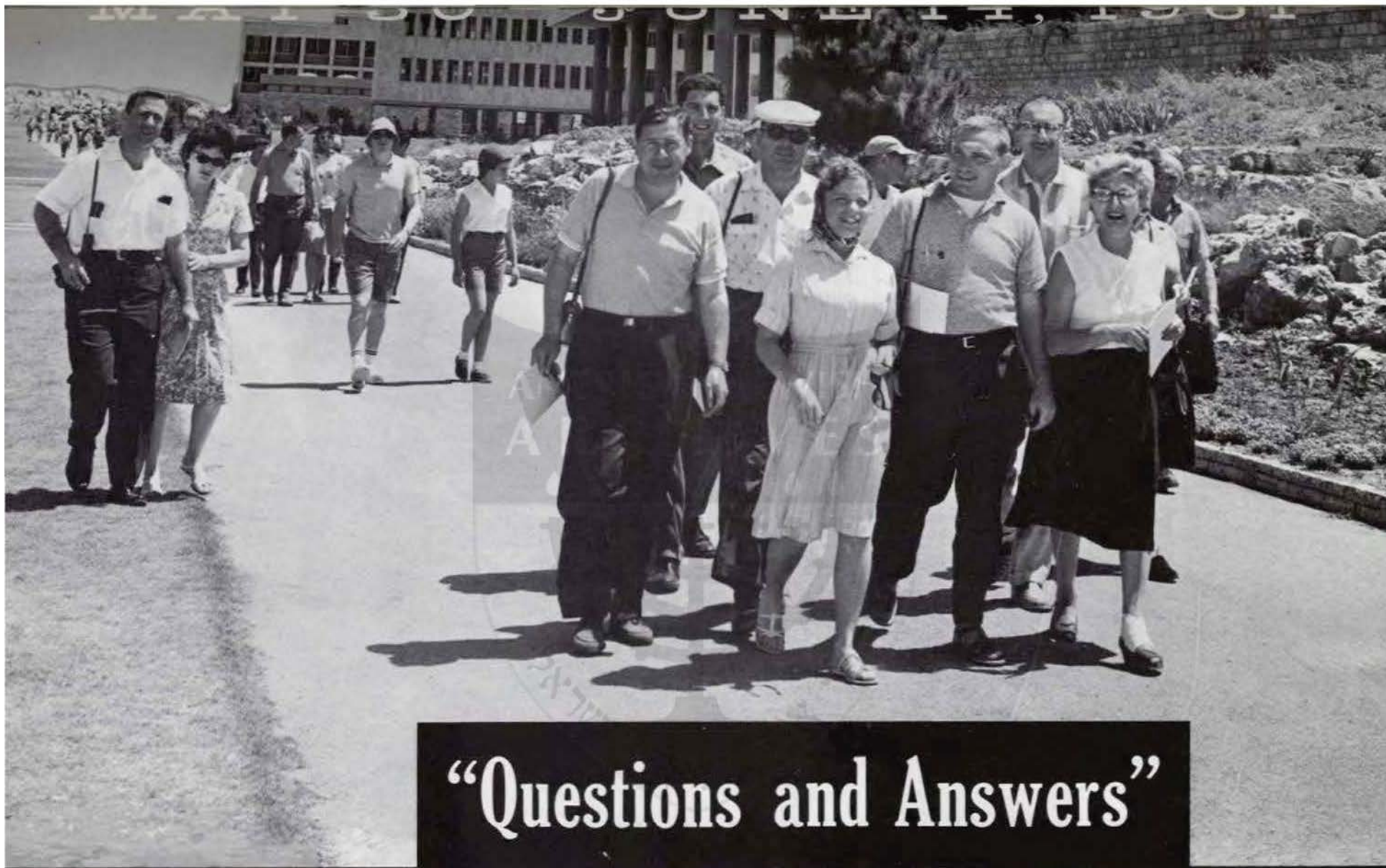
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"UJA Study Missions: 1961-1963." 1961-1963.

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UJA STUDY MISSIONS

1961-63



“Questions and Answers”

**THE STORY OF THE FIRST UNITED JEWISH APPEAL
YOUNG LEADERSHIP MISSION TO EUROPE AND ISRAEL**



Members of the Mission meet with Israel President Itzhak Ben-Zvi at tour's end. His eloquent statement of Israel's meaning and importance made a deep impression on all of us.



“Questions and Answers”

This is an account of a voyage of discovery and self-discovery taken by 140 young American Jews—members of the first UJA Young Leadership Mission.

Since the end of World War II, the UJA has sponsored or given its blessing to many group surveys of Jewish life in Europe and Israel by American Jewish leaders.

The top level annual United Jewish Appeal Study Mission has become a vital and impressive fixture of American Jewish communal life. Each fall since 1954, this Study Mission has brought some 100 Jewish community leaders from throughout the country to overseas lands and Israel, at their own expense, to look into problems and progress in Jewish life.

A similar, though smaller, UJA Women's Division Study group also makes a yearly fall pilgrimage. Annually, too, many local Jewish communities affiliated with UJA send abroad study groups of campaign leaders.

Each one of these many missions—as their participants can testify—provides its own inspiring and unforgettable experiences. *But none of them has been marked by a greater sense of personal discovery or a more significant final purpose than this mission of young leaders.*

“You worked harder, travelled more, saw more, asked more questions and learned more

facts than any other UJA Mission,” Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, UJA Executive Vice-Chairman and Mission leader, told our group at its closing session in Jerusalem, Wednesday evening, June 14. And not one of us in his audience, sunburned, tired after sixteen days of strenuous travel and study, yet excited and happy, was ready to disagree with this summary.

The First UJA Young Leadership Mission

- *How did we come to be on this Mission, and how did such a Mission come about?*
- *What did we see and do, and what did we want to know?*
- *What did we learn? And how did we feel about what we learned?*

These are some of the questions that this report seeks to answer. The answers may prove inadequate because we did so much, learned so much and experienced so much. But in half a hundred communities throughout the land there will be better answers given in the months ahead by those who actually participated in the Mission, enjoying to the full its extraordinarily wide and vivid range of experiences.

In a three day stay in Europe, before going to Israel, we of the Mission received a view in extreme closeup of the status of Jews in various



“Somewhere in Europe”, we heard the full story of UJA aided programs in 26 lands outside of Israel.



Charles H. Jordan, JDC Director-General overseas, gave us a vivid picture of the agency's needs. Wed., May 31



In Israel, we got our first briefing from Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, Mission leader. Fri., June 2



JDC's magnificent Malben program is outlined to us by its Director-General, Louis Horwitz.



We hear from Malben's Shulamith Lubin at Neve Avot, model old age home on a former slum site. Sun., June 4

European, African and Asian countries. Then, in 13 days in Israel, we saw the land and met Israel's people as few persons have had the opportunity of doing. We held question and answer sessions with Israel's foremost leaders, including Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, President Itzhak Ben-Zvi and a roster of other officials which reads like a miniature Who's Who of the country. We also had ample and fruitful opportunity to put hundreds of questions to Israel's Man-in-the-Street.

The route of the Mission took us from one of Israel's northernmost spots, the development town of Kiryat Shmoneh, to the country's southernmost point, the port of Eilat.

Since UJA's humanitarian funds are used in Israel to resettle, receive and absorb immigrants, Mission members spent much time in meeting and talking with newcomers. We boarded an incoming immigrant ship in Haifa harbor, visited an immigrant development town at New Nazareth, examined the immigrant farm region of Lachish, inspected immigrant housing at Ashdod Yam, and saw the care given to aged and handicapped newcomers by the Joint Distribution Committee's remarkable Malben program.

At the same time, the Mission saw many other sides of Israel life, including economic, educational and defense aspects. Above all, the Mission was arranged so that we could come in intimate association with Israel's young people, particularly the fine young men and women who serve in the Israel Defense Forces.

How the Mission Came Into Being

In a formal sense, this first UJA Young Leadership Mission began on Monday evening, May

29, 1961, when its 140 members boarded an El Al 707 jet airliner at New York's Idlewild International Airport, bound for a destination that can only be given here as "somewhere in Europe".

Who were we, it can be asked. Most of us, men and women alike, were in the 30 to 40 year age group. We came from 42 American communities from coast to coast. Almost all of us had given evidence of our interest in UJA through active participation and leadership in our local community campaigns. Each member had undertaken to pay his own way (\$795), plus expenses for a six day free-time stay in Paris at the end of the Mission's tour of Israel.

Some other data: The Mission included approximately sixty married couples, with each wife active in local Jewish affairs and the United Jewish Appeal in her own right. Almost all of the Mission members had been born in the U.S., and almost all were college trained. About forty members of the Mission were businessmen and almost as many were professionals. The professional group included 11 doctors, 14 lawyers and 12 others, among them an architect, social workers, accountants and a rabbi. Finally, only about six of our group had been to Israel before.

Behind these outward facts stood some others worth noting:

While the Mission formally began on May 29, its actual beginning was, in another sense, much earlier. For several years, the Executive Vice-Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, had been concerned with and had discussed with the officers of the Appeal, a problem of major importance to American Jewry: "What should we be doing to train up those younger leaders who will some day have

The UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

The UNITED JEWISH APPEAL is the major American agency raising funds for immigrants to Israel and refugees and distressed Jews overseas. It supports the humanitarian programs of two constituent agencies, the United Israel Appeal (Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc.) and the Joint Distribution Committee, and of the New York Association for New Americans, a member agency.

Through the IDC, it contributes toward the work of ORT, the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training. The United Hias Service, resettling Jews in countries other than Israel, also benefits from UJA campaigns.

Raising a total of \$1,340,000,000 since it was founded in January, 1939, the United Jewish Appeal has brought help to more than 2,700,000 people, resettling more than 1,200,000 Jews in Palestine and Israel and some 300,000 in the United States and other free lands.

In 1961, UJA aid programs are reaching almost 600,000 Jewish men, women and children in 27 countries throughout the world.



to carry on American Jewry's responsibilities to the people of Israel and Jews overseas?"

After long planning, part of the answer came in a highly successful National Young Leadership Conference at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, November, 1960.

A Reawakened Generation

Here, for three days, some three hundred active and interested young American Jewish communal leaders met to consider, learn about and analyze our Jewish past, present and future. We heard from some of the most notable figures in the American Jewish community and in Israel life: Edward M. M. Warburg, Chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee; Dewey D. Stone, Chairman of the Jewish Agency, Inc.; Philip M. Klutznick, then about to become General Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal and now a member of the U. S. Mission to the United Nations with rank of Ambassador; Avraham Harman, Israel Ambassador to the U. S., and others. For three hours, we listened spellbound to a comprehensive resume of one hundred years of contemporary Jewish life by Rabbi Friedman.

Why did we come to this Conference and why did we stay interested and moved till its final moment? In all probability it was because the Conference provided some of the answers to questions which a young and reawakened generation of American Jews has been trying to answer for itself—"What does it mean to be a Jew? How do we remain Jews?"

We recognized that as young American Jews of our time—American "sabras" so to speak—we were without the Jewish background of our first generation fathers and immigrant grand-

fathers. We admittedly knew little of the East European Jewish life from which we mainly sprang, or of the trends and principal events of Jewish life of the last hundred years, or even of contemporary Jewish life outside of the United States. But we hungered to know.

"A Living Dialogue"

At UJA's National Young Leadership Conference—now destined to be an annual gathering—a proposal was made that if enough young leaders were interested in making a tour at their own expense to Europe and Israel, the UJA would try to arrange for such a mission at a minimum rate.

The gifted Israel writer and commentator, Moshe Shamir—whom the Mission had the pleasure of meeting in Tel Aviv—has noted the following of America's young Jewish generation:

"It seems to me that a large part of the answer to the question of what it means to be a Jew in America *is to be found outside of America*. The sense of belonging to the Jewish people beyond the territorial boundaries of America and American history contains both the definition of the problem and the determination of its solution."

Continuing in this vein, Mr. Shamir has called for "contact and cooperation in establishing a running and living dialogue with Israeli Jews" and America's own young Jewish generation.

Thus, when the El Al jet left its Idlewild runway the evening of May 29, its 140 passengers were already embarked on the process of establishing this "running and living dialogue" and of answering what our Jewishness means.

“Somewhere in Europe”

Nine A.M., Wednesday morning, May 31, found us seated in an ornate, 18th Century ballroom in a major European city that shall be noted in this report as “somewhere in Europe.”

Like certain other cities of the Continent this one is a gateway city—an exit door for Jews permitted to leave various lands for those countries ready to accept them, including Israel. Hundreds of thousands have passed through it on their way to new homes since World War II.

At the moment the Mission came to it, would-be immigrants were again passing through the city quietly and unobtrusively, but in numbers that one organization official laconically noted as “interesting”. No numbers, no places of origin can be given about this latest Jewish movement. Experience has shown that where there is such publicity there is soon no migration. *But this much can be said: Israel expected and planned for 25,000 new immigrants during its present fiscal year. But if the present, welcomed, rate of movement continues, Israel may find itself with 15,000-25,000 more newcomers than anticipated—along with the urgent, unanticipated need for great additional funds for housing, absorption, educational and other immigrant assistance.*

Meanwhile, the visit to the gateway city provided us with a number of very positive benefits:

1. We were able to get a full and vivid picture of the great life-saving programs of the Joint Distribution Committee in behalf of some 250,000 persons in 26 European, African and Asian lands, including Israel. This picture was provided by Charles H. Jordan, JDC Director-General of Overseas Operations and several members of his able and dedicated staff. JDC is one of UJA's principal beneficiaries.

2. We received a closeup view of the operations of the World Organization for Rehabilitation through Training from Max Braude, Director-General of the World ORT Union. ORT, too, is a beneficiary of the UJA, through the Joint Distribution Committee.

3. We got our first insight into Israel's immigration story. This came from Eran Laor, Director of the Jewish Agency offices in Europe. The Jewish Agency for Israel is the principal beneficiary of the United Jewish Appeal and is Israel's philanthropic body for receiving and absorbing newcomers.

An Upsurge in Immigration

Speaking passionately and with great urgency, Mr. Jordan, the able Director-General of the JDC's overseas programs, graphically detailed the difficult, still uphill fight which JDC is waging sixteen years after VE Day, in behalf of the Jewish populations it aids. He gave as examples three new problems which the agency now faces:

First, he stressed, the sudden, new upturn in emigration from certain areas has posed great financial burdens on his organization's overseas operations.

Additionally, he noted, the situation in certain Moslem lands is full of new explosive potentialities. In one, the government has withdrawn the financial subvention it formerly gave to various educational and welfare programs in behalf of its Jewish citizens—with the result that JDC's program cost has been considerably increased.

Finally, the upsurge in immigration is threatening to greatly increase the numbers of newcomers in Israel who must turn to Malben—the JDC's special welfare program there for aged and handicapped immigrants.



A memorable lunch with Youth Aliyah children at Ramat Hadassah Recreation Center.
Sun., June 4



Youth Aliyah youngsters combine mental alertness with superb physical fitness.
Sun., June 4



Songfest in Safed with Northern Command army group climaxed our first full day of touring. Sun., June 4



Huleh Drainage project in Jordan Valley was an impressive example of Israel land reclamation.

In 1961, JDC planned to spend \$28,775,000 in its world-wide operations, \$17,200,000 of which was to come from UJA. Now, Mr. Jordan made clear, it needed even larger UJA aid.

"We feel alone here," said Mr. Jordan . . . "I am glad that you are here so that I can talk to you . . . The necessity of trying to find more money is causing all of us sleepless nights, I can tell you. And I want to tell it to you, so that it should trouble your dreams as well."

New JDC Problems

Another example of the new problems which JDC faces was given by Max Lapidus, JDC Administrative Assistant, who spoke of a critical situation in Marseilles. Here a community of some 10,000 Jews at the end of World War II (7,000 of them returned from concentration camps and from hiding) has mushroomed into Europe's second largest Jewish community, with nearly 40,000 Jews. *Where did they come from? From the entire salient of North African and Arab countries. How are their needs being met? They are not, for lack of funds.*

In Iran, however, according to Herbert Katzki, JDC Assistant Director-General, the Joint Distribution Committee has been able to accomplish many real improvements in behalf of the Jewish community, thanks to the generous and understanding cooperation of the Shah, the Iranian Government and national and local officials.

As a result, JDC aid has helped to reduce the mortality rate among Jewish infants. JDC aid has established kindergartens and other educational opportunities for Jewish children, has helped bring about improvement in the economic position of the Jewish community and has brought new concepts of cleanliness and sanitation to the *mahalleh*

—Teheran's ghetto. Yet despite these gains, lack of funds is delaying some JDC projects even in Iran.

Meanwhile, JDC Assistant Director-General Samuel Haber made it clear how much his organization's help means to Jews in certain Eastern European countries where it is permitted.

The United States Minister to the country where we met, and the Ambassador from the State of Israel, also spoke. The Minister noted that it was important for Americans to see with their own eyes what their aid was doing.

The Israel Ambassador stressed the need for increasing the ties of understanding between the Jews of Israel and the Jews of other countries.

Passport to Dignity

Finally, one of the most impressive presentations came from Max Braude, Director-General of the World ORT Union. Operating in 19 countries, ORT trains 40,000 pupils a year. Each year it graduates 10,000 pupils.

Mr. Braude stressed two points:

First, ORT's work often must begin after crisis headlines have died down. Months after the escape of 17,000 Jews from Hungary in 1956, for example, ORT found itself training 3,000 of these refugees in Vienna. All of them needed trade certificates to be able to leave for various countries in the Western world. Second, Mr. Braude noted, ORT is the first and only international vocational service organization in the world. An ORT diploma is a passport to dignity.

Hope for the Future

Finally, in this gateway city, we had one more major experience. Twice we met with the new

immigrants themselves—Jews en route to Israel being fed, temporarily housed and cared for by the Jewish Agency. These immigrants, some of whom had arrived twelve hours before, were filled with joy and anticipation—joy at having been finally allowed beyond restraining borders, anticipation at the idea of going to Israel. They were moved by the immediate help they were receiving and touched by the presence of friendly American Jews—and their happiness moved and touched us.

They spoke of the future, some with enthusiasm, some with trepidation. A journalist and his wife wondered if he would be able to continue his career in Israel. A champion soccer player was exhilarated by the prospect of playing on a Jewish team. A sturdy leather worker didn't care what kind of a job he got—anything to keep his family together. Patting the heads of his handsome young son and daughter, he said "Israel will be a good land for them."

Seeing these people, who had endured much and waited long, there wasn't one of us who didn't feel: "There, but for the grace of God go I." The knowledge of what it was like to be a Jew in Europe during the past few turbulent decades struck us with full impact.

The Mission Comes to Israel

On the eve of *Shabbat*, Friday June 2, the Mission arrived in Israel. At Lydda Airport we were welcomed by Katriel Katz, Government spokesman, and Moshe Rivlin, Secretary-General of the Jewish Agency. Since it was the *Shabbat*, the Mission's first 24 hours in Israel were spent quietly at the Accadia Hotel in Herzlia. There we made the acquaintance of nine



Tour of Nahal outpost of Notera, at Syrian border, showed us the importance of security in Israel.

of Israel's finest representatives, a group of men and women officers of the Israel Defense Forces, under the command of Colonel Alex Sharon. They had been selected to serve as our escorts during our thirteen day stay.

We heard, too, from Colonel Dov Sinai, IDF military spokesman, and made the acquaintance of the members of the UJA Public Relations staff in Israel, and other tour personnel.

The Mission in Israel

Beginning Saturday evening, June 3, the Mission undertook one of the most vigorous examinations of Israel ever attempted by any UJA group.

The Mission began with a three day visit to Israel's north that included visits to institutions in the Haifa area, the mountain top towns of New Nazareth and Safed, the Huleh Valley region, a Nahal outpost on the Syrian border, and finally Haifa and its port.



Time out for a picnic lunch at Founders' Grove, dedicated to the country's earliest settlers. Mon., June 5

Returning to Tel Aviv, we made two trips in Israel's central region, visiting the Lachish settlement area, the Weizmann Institute of Science, a *ma'abara*, the Aaron Syngalowsky ORT Center, the new port city of Ashdod Yam and other points of interest.

On the evening of Saturday, June 10, we left Tel Aviv for Beersheba, and the next day journeyed down through the Negev to Eilat. Monday morning, June 12, we left Eilat by plane for an Israel Airforce base, then travelled by bus to Jerusalem for a stay of three nights and two days.

The list of persons who undertook to answer the Mission's questions and contribute to our understanding of Israel's achievements and still-to-be-solved problems is a long and distinguished one. At its very head are the names of three unforgettable men who graciously spent considerable time with us: David Ben-Gurion, Prime Minister of Israel, Itzhak Ben-Zvi, President of Israel, and



Aboard an immigrant ship in Haifa, newcomers movingly expressed their hope for new lives.



Stepping at last onto the soil of Israel was a dream come true for 35 immigrant families.
Tues., June 6

Moshe Sharett, newly elected Chairman of the Jewish Agency and former Prime Minister.

Three Cabinet Ministers also took time out from their busy schedules to meet with us: Levi Eshkol, Minister of Finance, Dr. Giora Josephthal, Minister of Labor and Abba Eban, Minister of Education and President of the Weizmann Institute of Science. Equally courteous were several top-ranking officers of the Israel Foreign Ministry, including Dr. Chaim Yahil, Director-General, Yaacov Shimoni, Netanel Lorch and Avigdor Dagan, Ambassador-designate to Poland.

Numerous other persons were of great assistance to us, including Moshe Kol, Member of Knesset and head of Youth Aliyah and his staff; Louis Horwitz, Director-General of the Joint Distribution Committee-Malben program for aged and handicapped immigrants, and his associates; Kalman Levine, Jewish Agency Northern District Director of Immigrant Absorption and his assist-

ants; Dr. Raanan Weitz, Director of the Jewish Agency Agricultural Department and members of his staff; Jacob Oleski, Director of ORT in Israel and his staff, and various representatives of the Weizmann Institute of Science, the Technion — Israel's institute of technology, and the Hebrew University.

A Remarkable Courtesy

An altogether remarkable and outstanding courtesy was granted the Mission by Israel officials associated with the Eichmann trial. We had hoped to visit the trial in Jerusalem. But when it was recessed on June 12, a day before our scheduled visit, Police Lieutenant Colonel David Offir, in charge of security, invited us to visit and inspect the courthouse, and Gideon Hausner, Israel Attorney General and prosecutor, and his associates, spoke to us.

Cultural, educational and other personalities

who spent time with the Mission and answered our questions included Israel novelists Moshe Shamir and Izhar Smilansky, Miss Esther Herlitz, member of the Tel Aviv City Council and Dr. Haim Sheba, distinguished head of the Tel-Hashomer hospital.

Last, but certainly not least, it was the representatives of the Israel Defense Forces and its various branches who spared no effort to make us feel at home and at one with Israel and its people. These included Chief-of-Staff Major General Zvi Tsur, along with his associates; Brigadier General Ezer Weizmann, Chief of the Israel Air Force; Commander Yohan Bin Nun, Chief of the Israel Naval Forces; Brigadier General Meir Zorea of Israel's Northern Command; Brigadier General Avraham Yoffe of Israel's Southern Command; Captain Shlomo Erel, Assistant Commander of the IDF Navy; Colonel Shmuel Ayal, Commander of Nahal; Colonel Aharon Yariv, and many others.

Areas of Investigation

There was scarcely a facet of life in Israel, ordinary and extraordinary, which the Mission failed to touch upon, if only briefly.

But, for the sake of presenting the great variety of impressions and the vast store of information that we received in some organized fashion, it is appropriate to say that our tour brought us in contact with these general aspects of Israel life:

- (1) *Immigration and Immigrant Absorption*
- (2) *Water and Development*
- (3) *Education and Cultural Development*
- (4) *Security*

The JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL

The JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL is Israel's philanthropic body for transferring, receiving and absorbing new immigrants in Israel. Funds raised by the United Jewish Appeal on behalf of its constituent body, the United Israel Appeal, are allocated to the Jewish Agency for Israel for programs approved by the JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL, INC., an American organization.

The Jewish Agency this year will begin the process of absorbing Israel's second million immigrants into the life and economy of the country. Of the almost 1,000,000 newcomers it has received since the State of Israel was proclaimed in May, 1948, the Jewish Agency has fully and successfully resettled about two thirds.

Its programs of housing, agricultural assistance, education, welfare and other care in 1961 are designed to aid 260,000 men, women and children in Israel.



Immigration — Israel's Main Aim

The paramount reason for Israel's birth was so there might be one land on earth where any Jew could come and live as of right.

This principle was enunciated on the day of the Jewish State's birth. It has been restated in one form or another since, every single day of Israel's existence. And Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion himself re-emphasized it at the Mission's last session on Wednesday, June 14, declaring:

"A main aim of establishing the State—and still a main aim of the State of Israel—was to give every Jew in the world who has a need—whether an economic need, or a political need, or because he is persecuted, or a spiritual need, or for any other reason—the chance to come to this country. This is his right."

To the UJA visitor, those aspects of Israel that relate to immigration have the highest priority on his interest and time. For the UJA's role in Israel is, and always has been, to help bring the immigrant to Israel, to help receive him, house him, care for him if he needs care and start him on his new life.

By design, then—and not by accident—the Mission looked into the immigration story from many angles.

In Europe: On Their Way

The start was "somewhere in Europe," where we met and talked with immigrants in transit. From these Jews, at long last on their way to Israel, we heard of their longing to be in a land where they might live openly and without handicap as Jews, and "raise our children as Jews."

One more thing—we learned that those who must meet and care for the would-be immigrants arriving in the gateway cities never knew how

many to expect, or when. Jewish Agency representatives must meet all likely trains and incoming planes. With a quiet "Shalom," they must search out those they suspect are Jews in transit, and help them to reach friendly feeding centers and transit camps.

At Haifa: The Moment of Arrival

Then on Tuesday, June 6, at the docks of Haifa, we boarded the S.S. Enotria and met these same immigrants just at the moment when they were to step into Israel and begin new lives.

For the immigrants this was an instant of tremendous joy, knowing they had lived through to this moment. But it was also one of enormous sorrow as they remembered those who had perished and never lived to arrive in Israel. It was also a time of many natural doubts and fears.

For almost all of us on that ship in Haifa, this was the emotional high-spot of the tour. A blond-haired boy of four threw his arms around one of the women Mission members, recognizing her as a newly acquired friend from the transit camp—and left her in tears.

Two of the Mission leaders, Rabbi Friedman and Abraham Hyman, Assistant Executive Vice-Chairman, had their own never to be forgotten experience. One of the Jewish Agency escorts on board the ship recognized them and introduced himself. Sixteen years earlier, the then Captain Hyman and Chaplain Friedman, of the United States Army of Occupation, had sought to defend nineteen Jewish D.P. boys who had rioted against the Germans in their camp at Landsberg, Germany. These boys were sentenced and jailed. Now, the one time rioter and prisoner was a free man in a free country, helping to bring others to freedom.

FACE TO FACE — We met youngsters in their classrooms and youth centers and senior citizens in their workshops; spoke to Israelis in all walks of life, from the average citizen to the President of the State; shared the moment of arrival with newcomers and saw earlier immigrants at work on settlements and in development towns. Both the spirit of Israel and the importance of UJA-aided immigrant absorption programs were made clear by these face-to-face meetings.



Mr. and Mrs. Paul Alamar

Eli D. Albert

Irving Peikes

Charles Altman



and Mrs. Bernard S. Bear

Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Belz

Francine Bensley

Dr. and Mrs. Gerald S. Berenson

Dr. Aaron Bernstein

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Colman

Mrs. Bernstein



Mr. and Mrs. Leon E. Brock

Mr. and Mrs. Jules L. Cohn

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond S. Carl

Dr. Herbert I. Cohen

Mark D. Coplin



bert H. Dorfman

Mr. and Mrs. James W. Effron

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Engel

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Engelberg

Howard Engelberg



Mr. and Mrs. Harold Feder

Mr. and Mrs. Irwin S. Field

Mervin A. Fahn

Martin S. Goldman

Marvin Garfinkel

Rabbi and Mrs. Herbert A. Friedman



Lynn C. Golberg

Dr. and Mrs. Sewell Gordon

Charles H. Greenberg

David L. Handel

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel N. Heller



Dr. and Mrs. Elbert M. Kronick

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lentzner

Arthur J. Lerman

Allan N. Leibson

Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Leventhal

Lawrence L.



Mr. and Mrs. Neil J. Norry

Simon A. Olian

Dr. and Mrs. H. K. Parks

Lawrence D. Perelman

Mr. and Mrs. F.



bbi and Mrs. Byron T. Rubinstein

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin D. Sacks

Dr. and Mrs. Max Schleimer

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Schwab

Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Friel



Dr. and Mrs. Myron J. Shapiro

Mr. and Mrs. Ira E. Shein

Stephen Sokoloff

Mr. and Mrs. Darwin R. Sussberg

Judge and Mrs. Hugo Taustine



Mr. and Mrs. Alex Temkin

Mrs. Tillman

Harry Tillman

Mr. and Mrs. Laurence A. Weinstein

Dr. William I. Weiss

Herbert R. Behrens Mrs. W



Mrs. White

Eugene B. White

Nothan Wyl

Dr. David N. Yotzkan

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Zacks

Jerome J. Zales

The JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

The JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, founded in December, 1914, is the major American agency meeting the needs of distressed Jews overseas. A constituent agency of the United Jewish Appeal, it brings relief, rehabilitation and other constructive help to some 250,000 Jewish men, women and children in 26 countries throughout the world, including Israel.

Outside of Israel, JDC supplies sorely-needed food, clothing, health and welfare services in Europe, North Africa and other areas; offers vital vocational training through a subvention to ORT; aids Jewish religious and cultural life, and provides crucial relief-in-transit.

Since 1949, its MALBEN program of care for aged, chronically ill and handicapped immigrants in Israel has helped more than 150,000 men, women and children toward recovery and social usefulness. Through its 29 institutions and extensive extra-mural programs, it is aiding 37,000 people in 1961.



Since the Mission had been in Israel now for four days, there was something we could do for the newcomers: reassure them as they confided to us their fears as well as their hopes. We were able to tell them that we had already seen a good deal of Israel, that it was a fine land where immigrants were welcomed with warmth, love and opportunity.

Immigrant Absorption in Israel

The immigrants we saw had been processed by Jewish Agency officials of the Absorption Department who accompany each transport.

But—it can be asked—what happens to the newcomer after his arrival? The newcomers we met were people who came to Israel as have most of the million immigrants since 1948—with no more worldly goods and means than they had in a few small suitcases and parcels.

The question was answered for us in a variety of ways. At New Nazareth and Ashdod Yam we saw two of the new immigrant development towns to which most of today's immigrants are sent.

In Lachish, we saw a vast immigrant farming district, on which many immigrants were resettled only a few years ago.

In a Malben home we saw the care and aid that goes to aged, handicapped and chronically-ill immigrants who cannot take care of themselves. In a Youth Aliyah center we saw the help that goes to youthful immigrants. And finally, in the Or Yehuda *ma'abara* we saw how help is still urgently needed by many thousands of Israel's immigrants in achieving decent housing.

Our visit to New Nazareth came on Sunday, June 4. Here on the mountain above the ancient city of Nazareth—today completely Arab—a

Jewish city of 6,000 has arisen in the last four years, inhabited by new immigrants from Eastern Europe. The aim is to build a city of 10,000 and even as we arrived in the town, one thousand housing units were under construction for those to come. While New Nazareth builds, it must develop industry as well and provide opportunities for employment. We saw a modern cotton spinning plant which employs 300—but the hope is that it will some day employ 1,000.

In Ashdod Yam, another development town which we saw in the making on Friday, June 9, we had a chance to go into new immigrant homes. These are one and a half or two room flats—depending on the size of the family—with a sink, running water, shower and toilet — modest housing by American standards.

But for almost all who come from the housing-poor countries of Europe and North Africa, such a home of their own, in a land of their own, represents the achievement of a miraculous dream.

The Lachish Story

Lachish offered another kind of story. In this area, south of Tel Aviv and north of Beersheba, is one of Israel's—and UJA's—finest achievements in immigrant absorption. What was a sandy waste six years before was, when we saw it, a smiling land, green with crops, dotted with 25 new immigrant towns and supporting a population of 30,000. Some 15,000 lived in the brand new development town of Kiryat Gat.

The whole of Lachish, as we learned when we lunched with Jewish Agency officials at the Samuel Rubin Cultural Center in Kiryat Gat, was developed as a single economic unit.



In Tel Aviv, Labor Minister Giora Josephthal outlined Israel's social progress and problems.
Tues., June 6

The settlers of Lachish were busy harvesting sugar-beet, and a new sugar-beet factory was starting operation. Cotton, peanuts, vegetables, dairy and beef cattle are also grown in the region. Lachish is so planned that four or five farm villages are focused around a single administrative town. Each of these villages is inhabited by Jews from one given country or region—Morocco, Kurdistan, Egypt, India, and other lands too. The administrative town is the place where these groups mingle and get to know each other as they seek out the central educational, health, religious and social services which it holds.

In a small school house in the village of Shahar, a Jewish Agency agricultural extension officer told something of the long struggle to turn untrained immigrants into farmers. But today, he said, any farmer who is willing to work at it can earn a fair living for himself and his family. The area is steadily moving from mixed farming to specialized farming—with higher returns.



A Mission highlight was an evening with Israel cultural leaders. Speaking: Dr. Haim Sheba.
Wed., June 7

Isaac Abt, the able Jewish Agency agricultural director for Lachish, pointed out to the Mission that of all of Israel's new development towns, only Kiryat Gat was designed to be dependent on the products produced locally.

Meanwhile, Avram Ben Ari, another Jewish Agency representative, pointed out that the lessons learned at Lachish are being reviewed and analyzed prior to establishing still another integrated agricultural area, Besor, to the southwest.

Great Problems Remain

But while the Lachish area can safely be considered a success, the same cannot be said of most of the 130,000 immigrant farmers UJA has helped establish on the land. These farmers are making headway—and Israel is self-sufficient in practically all foodstuffs but wheat and beef—but they still have great problems to solve.

The majority of the immigrant farmers are still making only a precarious living. They need

more water, more irrigated land, more roads, more financial assistance so they can change over to commercial crops—and, it is estimated, a program of making all of the new immigrant farmers self-sufficient would require some \$200,000,000 over a three or four year period.

A Malben Achievement

Two totally different aspects of the immigrant picture were presented to the Mission on our first day of touring, Sunday, June 4. At Pardess Hannah, once the site of one of the most notorious reception camps for immigrants—a slum in which thousands of aged and handicapped persons lived helplessly—we saw one of the great achievements of the Joint Distribution Committee. This was the old age village of Neve Avot (The House of the Fathers), which serves 1,200 aged men and women from Europe, and is one of the nineteen Malben supported homes for the aged in Israel, with 4,350 beds.

Some in the Mission were not anxious to visit Neve Avot—but were glad when they did. For here we found an old-age institution of another kind—a cheerful place, where the majority of the aged are happy, and show it, as they keep busy at tasks of their own choosing in pottery, woodworking, and other workshops, in a land to which they feel passionately attached.

Malben's work, however, is not for the aged alone. Spending some \$10,000,000 a year in Israel this arm of the Joint Distribution Committee took over one of the new state's most awesome burdens in the days when immigration was at flood-tide. The tens of thousands who came in

then had suffered the most under the Nazi terror—the maimed, the sick, the aged, the handicapped—people who could never qualify as suitable immigrants for western countries which set up immigration standards of physical fitness and potential financial ability. But Israel accepted them gladly.

As Louis Horwitz, Malben Director-General told us in a question and answer session: Malben as a first priority tackled the problem of tuberculosis among immigrants, building institutions with 1,300 beds. Then the dramatic development of new drugs for the treatment of TB made it possible for Malben to continue treatment for the majority of its patients in clinics. Now much of the funds that once went into TB work are going into meeting another serious problem—mental illness.

Mr. Horwitz indicated, however, that great problems still remained which cannot be solved now, because of lack of funds.

The Youth Aliyah “Family”

From Malben, the Mission’s next stop was at the Youth Aliyah Center of Ramat Hadassah, where some 240 immigrant children awaited us. Our lunch was with the children themselves, a never to be forgotten experience. We talked with them, visited their school and playgrounds, watched an athletic exhibition, and joined in their dances, including a hora.

In a letter to the Mission, the children wrote: “We like these visits because they make us feel we are part of a larger family.

“The 240 of us came from the following lands:

“Algeria, Cuba, Egypt, India, Iraq, Lebanon, Lybia, Morocco, Mexico, Persia, Poland, Ru-



The Lachish settlement area, supporting 30,000 people, showed us UJA-aided absorption program at its best.

mania, Russia, Syria, Turkey, Tunisia, Yemen.”

And then it went on to say:

“Here in Ramat Hadassah we learn one language and many other things that bind us together. Thus united we, together with those who will follow us, will help build Israel and make it a good place in which to live.”

Since its inception in 1934, Youth Aliyah has brought more than 100,000 youngsters to Israel, or aided them there. About 75,000 Youth Aliyah graduates can be found in every walk of life—one of Israel’s finest achievements.

The Lingering Housing Problem

But on another level altogether, we were to see children who were not getting the benefit of the care which goes to the children of Youth Aliyah.

On Thursday, June 8, our final visit of the day—after a morning at Lachish, and an after-



The school children of Lachish proved prime examples of the area’s vigor and vitality. Thurs., June 8

noon at the Weizmann Institute—was to the Or Yehuda *ma’abara* outside of Tel Aviv. Here we saw some of the 30,000 or so immigrants of other years to Israel, who still live under primitive and almost uncivilized conditions.

The *ma’abarot* went up in the days of Israel’s heaviest immigration—and once 250,000 persons lived in them. Quickly these supposed transit camps grew into slums of the worst kind. The Jewish Agency and the Israel Government have been making valiant efforts to get rid of them. Dr. Giora Josephthal, Israel’s Minister of Labor, told the Mission that if present plans can be carried forward, by the end of Israel’s fiscal year the *ma’abara* dwellers should be reduced to 4,000 families — or 16,000 persons in all.

But looming on the horizon, in view of the new immigration, is a new housing shortage. Only an all-out effort will make it possible to avoid using the ma’abarot again as a desperate housing resort.

The Mission, as has been noted, came into contact with many other aspects of Israel life besides the immigration story:

Water and Development

Israel, as Levi Eshkol, Minister of Finance indicated, is at the point where emphasis is, and must be, put on the development of industry.

For the moment, the heavy stress that was in the past placed on agriculture has been tabled. In general, today's new immigrant goes not to a farm, but to a development town, built with a view to sustaining itself through industry.

At New Nazareth, Ashdod Yam and Eilat, we saw such towns in the building. We saw another just getting its start at Mitzpeh Ramon, in the heart of the Negev. Here two hundred Israel citizens have volunteered to begin a new city and to try to set up an electronics industry capable of supporting a large population.

But development and agriculture can only go ahead if Israel has water.

In his final summary to the Mission, Rabbi Friedman declared:

"When you think of Israel . . . you must think of water. *Not only will the Negev not be developed, but this country will die without water* — the developed part of the country. There may be a struggle ahead over water in terms of the Jordan diversion, two or three years from now. The 108 inch pipeline from the north to the Negev is being advanced daily. Thirty million Israeli pounds (\$16,500,000) a year are going into that line — and they've got to build two hundred miles . . ."

The Mission saw something of what Israel has already done in the way of making use of its water resources, when we viewed the drained and reclaimed Huleh valley from the heights of Mesudat Yesha. The Huleh reclamation not only put valuable land back into cultivation, it helped conserve the comparative abundance of water in Israel's north for use in the arid south. As we travelled through the country, too, we saw the

huge nine feet diameter pipes being set down.

In Lachish, which depends almost entirely for its water on the Yarkon-Negev pipeline put down several years ago, we also saw how an entire area, with nearly 30,000 new settlers, was brought to life by water.

Education and Culture

Looking into Israel's educational opportunities, the Mission not only visited Israel's three major institutions of learning: the Technion in Haifa, the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem; we also spent time in some of Israel's elementary classrooms, and in one of its important secondary vocational high schools — ORT's Aaron Syn-galowsky vocational training center, near Tel Aviv.

Of equal importance with these visits was our chance to hear from two of Israel's most distinguished figures deeply involved in its educational programs. One of these was Israel's Minister of Education, Abba Eban, who met with us on the afternoon of Thursday, June 8. The other was Dr. Giora Josephthal, Minister of Labor, who spent an evening with us in Tel Aviv, Tuesday, June 6, answering a whole range of questions bearing on Israel's economy.

Mr. Eban is in favor of a broad higher education which embodies a synthesis of the approach of the scientist and the humanist. Dr. Josephthal feels that a country which seeks to become industrialized must train up more technicians and more people equipped with the skills that will enable them to pick up the challenge of an industrialized economy. *But the need of more and improved educational opportunities, both broad-based and specialist-oriented, was made eminently clear by both these distinguished men.*



Discussion with Education Minister Abba Eban climaxed our visit to famed Weizmann Institute.



At Or Yehuda, we inspected this ma'abara — soon to be replaced by a new housing project.
Thurs., June 8

Israel is the one Near East country with a free elementary school system. Its three main institutions of higher learning are not only the pride of the country, but stand comparison with similar institutions throughout the world. But between the highest level of education and its elementary educational facilities a great gap exists. Israel does not have, and cannot yet afford, a free compulsory high school system.

Some seventy per cent of Israel's elementary school graduates do go on to secondary school, on scholarships, or with their tuition paid by their parents. But every responsible Israel leader knows that only through enlarged free educational facilities open to all able to benefit from them, can Israel lift itself up to the level which it aims to reach — that of a world leader in intellectual and scientific achievement.

ORT and Vocational Training

As to the role of vocational and specialized training in Israel, Jacob Oleski, Director of ORT in Israel, gave the Mission some indication of the part his organization plays. ORT with its 25 centers in Israel has approximately 9,000 pupils, thereby meeting an extremely large percentage of Israel's secondary educational needs.

Said Mr. Oleski, "When parents hear there is an ORT registration period, they get in line twenty-four hours in advance and stay up all night, just to be sure to get an application form for their child."

Cultural Life

Officially and unofficially, the Mission also sampled something of Israel's cultural life. Tuesday evening, June 6, we held a question and answer period with four who could speak

with authority on many cultural matters — Izhar Smilansky, Member of Knesset, and novelist whose "The Days of Ziglag" is considered by many to be the finest literary creation yet of Israel's sabra generation; Moshe Shamir, a brilliant writer, author of the celebrated novel, "King of Flesh and Blood", and spokesman for young Israel; Miss Esther Herlitz, member of the City Council of Tel Aviv and the holder of many posts in Israel's political life; and Dr. Haim Sheba, an extraordinary and outstanding medical personality, Director of the Tel Hashomer Hospital, and once Surgeon-General of the Army.

We saw another aspect of Israel's culture when, on the evening of June 3, divided into groups of nine and ten, we spent social evenings with Israelis at home. We also met with some of Israel's artists in Safed, sang some of Israel's songs with Army entertainment groups in Safed and Beersheba, and went to hear the Israel Philharmonic in Tel Aviv.



Vocational training facilities at ORT's Aaron Syngalowsky school left us deeply impressed.

We heard from many who are the bearers of Israel's cultural standards. But out of all we heard one thought most worth recording here is perhaps that expressed by Moshe Shamir:

"If Jews have something unique and special to say to the world again, they will say it from here."

Security

The Mission was made aware of Israel's pressing, ever-present security problem in many ways. Israel, it was emphasized, is a country of 2,000,000 persons, surrounded by 40,000,000 Arabs. The chiefs-of-state of the Arab countries have nothing but hostility for the young land.

Vastly outnumbered in population, Israel has managed to maintain itself against enormous odds by making up for what it lacks in numbers through the quality of its defense.

We saw something of the small but highly effi-



Equally impressive was dress parade of recruits at an army base on completion of basic training.

Fri., June 9

cient and highly spirited Israel Defense Forces in several ways. At Notera, on the sensitive, touchy Israel-Syrian border, we visited a Nahal group—Israel's pioneer fighting youth. We were told that often the Syrian sentries in the hills above Notera looked through field glasses at the weekly football match which takes place just short of no-man's land. But at other times these part-time spectators keep Notera and other Israel settlements under heavy rifle-fire.

We met the Israel Navy as guests aboard one of its frigates and saw examples of its remarkable efficiency. We met the Israel Army as guests of an armored brigade in Beersheba and when we watched a full-dress parade of recruits at the end of their first three months of basic training. We met the Israel Air Force at a base somewhere in Israel, saw its magnificent young pilots handle their jet planes in a finished professional manner.

Prominent military analysts have long declared the Israel Army to be one of the best trained and most effective fighting units in the world, on a man for man basis. They have noted, as well, that the army is one of Israel's greatest educational instruments—that its members, both men and women, spend almost fifty per cent of their time on non-military subjects, including history, Hebrew and vocational subjects. Thus the Army is used to weld the diverse youth of this land into a single unified populace.

Israel Still Threatened

As the world knows, the Israel Defense Forces gave superb accounts of itself in 1948 and again in 1956. But today there is a growing uneasiness about Israel's future, as Israel's people realize that huge quantities of arms are continuing to flow into Egypt and other Arab countries from the Soviet Union, and that Arab pilots and other offi-

cers are showing an increased ability to handle their modern weapons, thanks to continuous guidance and training. *Meanwhile, Nasser continues to make verbal threats against Israel's existence — and there is the feeling that some day he may again seek to translate his threats into action.*

In addition to all this, there is the all-important fact that even if no future struggle develops, the continued threat of Arab hostility toward Israel has been enough to divert an enormous amount of Israel's available funds and energy from the tasks of peaceful development. *Who can say how much further along towards its goals of self-sufficiency and maximum development Israel would be by now if it had not had to spend so much of its strength and best talent on the simple business of staying alive?*

The Spirit of Israel

Nothing that anyone can see in Israel in the way of physical achievement, of land reclaimed, of deserts revitalized, of buildings erected, is more impressive than the people of Israel themselves, and their spirit. Israel is a land whose people take miracles for granted, and whose visitors soon come to accept this attitude as normal and natural.

Conquer the Negev? It will be done. Turn salt water into sweet? It will be done. Take all immigrants who come? It will be done. Build a single, unified nation of people from 70 different lands, with twice that number of tongues? It will be done.

A spirit of belief — the confidence of youth — a pleasure in overcoming the impossible — these are the essence of the spirit which is manifested by Israel's Man-in-the-Street and its top-most leaders alike.



At Jewish Agency headquarters, our questions were answered freely and frankly by Chairman Moshe Sharett



Our discussions with Finance Minister Levi Eshkol in Jerusalem were both informal and informative. Tues., June 13

A generation which survived Hitler in Europe and lived to see one of its chief tormentors, Adolf Eichmann, brought to justice before an Israel court scarcely a decade and a half later is ready to believe that it is capable of accomplishing the utmost feats of nation building.

Its Meaning

On a quiet afternoon in Jerusalem, Tuesday, June 13, we met with the distinguished chairman of the Jewish Agency, Moshe Sharett, former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Israel. His memorable, deeply searching answers to our questions, examined the meaning of Israel, its connection with the Jewish past and future and with us, America's young Jews.

With deep-felt emotion, he recalled the imperishable contributions of Judaism and Jewish teaching to the moral consciousness of the world. He indicated that Israel, as inheritor of this great tradition, cannot rest at being just another small state. It must continuously seek to give substance and meaning to this priceless inheritance.

Mr. Sharett emphasized that Israel has already done much in this direction, building a social order of benefit to all its citizens. In giving present-day expression to the Jewish sense of responsibility to mankind in its efforts at home and its great feats of service to newly developing states abroad, it is winning widespread appreciation and friendship. He urged us to identify ourselves with Israel's efforts, as one way of advancing our own self-fulfillment.

Summing up Israel's great achievement President Itzhak Ben-Zvi later told us: *"This is*

just the start. It has to be continued by you and your children's children. We are all called Israel."

Its Message

Later that afternoon, a Mission member asked Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion: "What do you feel my relationship with Israel should be?"

To this Israel's great leader replied in part:

"I believe deeply that we (in Israel) have a mission and a message to the Jewish people in the world. Our mission is to build the country as a model for humanity, a country embodying the best ideals of our prophets, which are justice and human fraternity. And our message to the Jewish people is that we can really be, as our prophets believe we should be, in times to come: a light unto the nations. I see the beginning of it . . ."

When Mrs. Ben-Gurion, on accepting an oil portrait of the Prime Minister, said "Thank you very much, but I think the original is much nicer" — we were more than ready to agree.

That evening, before we left Jerusalem we summed up what we thought and felt in the following letter:

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL YOUNG LEADERSHIP MISSION 1961

Jerusalem

June 14th, 1961

United Jewish Appeal
New York City, N. Y.

We are taking this opportunity of expressing our sincere personal thanks for everything

done for us on this mission. The patience and courtesies extended to us by the officials of the UJA and its affiliated agencies, the Israel Defense Forces, the Government and citizens of the State of Israel, and of those who accompanied us on this mission, were extremely generous and helpful. Please accept our affectionate appreciation for the planning and execution of this mission.

In Europe we had the magnificent experience of seeing immigrants from many countries in a transit camp en route to Israel, people who now have the opportunity to live in freedom as individuals and as Jews. We also had the rare privilege of seeing many of them again on their arrival in Haifa and sharing with them the joy of *Aliyah*.

We have seen the unbelievable achievements made by the State of Israel, and we are proud of the part we have played in the partnership between American Jewry and the State of Israel to help make these achievements possible.

Speaking for the young Jews of America, we will continue with fuller understanding and greater zeal to work through the UJA to meet the needs of our fellow Jews in Israel and other parts of the world. We have been greatly inspired by this mission, and will carry back to our communities a message and an enthusiasm which will ensure that these needs will continue to be met.

With our deepest gratitude,

Members of the First UJA
Young Leadership Mission

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Grand climax of our stay in Israel was our face-to-face meeting with Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and Mrs. Ben-Gurion. The great statesman's friendly but searching answers to our questions were memorable. Speaking at our last session in Israel, he reminded us that missions are never completed . . . and we agree. Our journey is over; our mission has just begun.

Wed., June 14

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Report of 25th Anniversary United Jewish Appeal
Study Mission to Europe and Israel—October, 1962

THE TASK IS NOT DONE. . .

The Report of the 25th Anniversary

8TH ANNUAL UNITED JEWISH APPEAL STUDY MISSION

TO EUROPE AND ISRAEL

October 16 - November 1, 1963

High on a hillock at Korazim, overlooking Israel's famed Sea of Galilee, a noted hydraulic engineer stands before a map, tracing the long course of the Jordan-Negev conduit - a great, nine-foot high, pipeline.

"The largest pipeline in the world in the smallest country in the world!" This remark, passed in humor, to the assembled members of the 8th United Jewish Appeal Study Mission, also served as the perfect allegory for the work at hand, and Jewry in general.

"The smallest group in the world with the world's largest and longest lifeline of aid," remarked a Mission member.

Here, in the presence of the members of the Mission, one could move at once from symbolism to fact: the main lifeline - the United Jewish Appeal - anchored firmly in the wellsprings of a dedicated American Jewry deeply concerned with the fate and future of Jews everywhere.

One branch of the UJA lifeline is directed to Jerusalem, the world headquarters of the Jewish Agency for Israel, meeting the needs of Israel's immigrants.

Another stems out from the New York headquarters of the Joint Distribution Committee to its overseas operational center in Geneva and from there veins out to centers of need and distress in 28 countries of the world.

In recent years, some 600,000 Jews yearly have been reached by the overall lifeline. Every year about 300,000 have been aided by each of the two branch lifelines. In the course of a typical year thousands of those outside Israel are brought there, and given every aid to become absorbed into the economic fabric of that country. But others seem to arise and take their place.

1962 - NOT AN AVERAGE YEAR

In an average year...but 1962 was not an average year. Neither was the year before it. Nor is there any likelihood that 1963 will be an average year.

In the lexicon of Jewish overseas aid, even the phrase "average year" does not mean a period of greatly lessened responsibilities. But as for 1962, it was one that was overwhelmingly great in unmet needs with:

- Europe teeming with the largest number of Jewish refugees since the DP era.
- Israel called upon to receive the second highest immigration in a decade.
- The United States receiving one of the highest movements of Jewish refugees in recent years.

All in all, 1962 was a year that saw more Jews on the move - nearly 200,000 in various parts of the world - than any since 1957.

It was to assess this situation that the 8th United Jewish Appeal Study Mission, representing a cross-section of the leadership of the American Jewish community, leaders who were charged with the operations of the great UJA lifeline, was led overseas by Joseph Meyerhoff, UJA General Chairman.

On October 15, 1962, members of the Mission dispersed to various destinations in Europe and North Africa.

One group of Mission members, led by Mr. Meyerhoff, flew on to West Germany. Another, headed by Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, UJA Executive Vice Chairman, flew to Poland. A third, consisting of Philip Zinman of Camden, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kapelow of New Orleans, went to North Africa. The remaining members went on with Edward M. M. Warburg, UJA Honorary Chairman, and Chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, to Paris.

The first two made pilgrimages to the sites of two of Hitler's most notorious concentration camps: Bergen Belsen near Hamburg, Germany, and Auschwitz, in the

vicinity of Cracow, Poland. While in Poland, the group also visited the Warsaw Ghetto. These three places represent three shrines most sacred to the memory of the six million Jewish victims of the Nazi holocaust.

Then in Paris, all three groups came together on October 18 and began a minute and thorough review of the most pressing Jewish refugee situation in Europe since the DP era following World War II. This is a situation created by the presence of 160,000 Jews in France who have been forced to flee Algeria and other North African countries in the last 18 months.

BACKGROUND OF THE MISSION

Composed of 145 men and women from 36 cities in 21 states, the Mission was the largest, as well as one of the most representative of the Jewish leadership of the country, ever to participate in such a venture. Its membership of 145 included 24 UJA officers and members of its policy-setting National Campaign Cabinet. All of the members were key individuals in their communities: past general chairmen of their community campaigns, presidents of local welfare funds and chairmen elect of forthcoming campaigns, and leading contributors.

ON THE EVE OF UJA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Notable was the fact that the Mission's journey was being undertaken on the eve of the UJA's 25th Anniversary year. The negotiations between the JDC and the then United Palestine Appeal to form a United Jewish Appeal began following the infamous Kristall Nacht of November 10, 1938 - that night of utter devastation that marked the beginning of the end for 6 million Jews in Europe. The years since UJA's founding constituted an epoch unparalleled in the history of mankind. In this span of years Jewry both suffered the greatest of human tragedies, and reached the highest peaks of human achievements in lifesaving and Jewish community rebuilding, with the aid of the Jews of America.

For these reasons, the Mission's visit was eagerly awaited by the two major Jewish communities whose existence had been reinforced by this unique dedication on the part of American Jewry - the Jews of Europe and of Israel.

The Mission imposed three specific tasks upon itself:

To honor the 6,000,000 slaughtered and to pay tribute to the revived Jewries of Europe and Israel;

To make an exhaustive inquiry into the overseas needs that should be met through UJA in 1963;

And, with the people of Israel about to mark their fifteenth year of statehood, to try to look beyond the immediate present to the time when Israel will complete its second decade of independence and able to accommodate a population of three million.

Each of these tasks the Mission fulfilled.

IN GERMANY AND POLAND

The pilgrimages to Germany and Poland - the scenes of Jewry's greatest tragedy - served as more than an occasion to pay homage to the dead: it became a reminder of a terrible loss which will never be recouped. The overriding conclusion that emerged from the visits to the principal Jewish centers of these countries - Hamburg, West Berlin, Cracow and Warsaw - was that these Jewish communities probably would never - certainly not for generations - return to their former stature and glory.

Poland's Jews, Mission members learned, now number 25,000 as compared with a pre-war population of 3,500,000; West Germany's is 20,000 - a loss of nearly 600,000. The latter needed no further help to speak of. Polish Jewry, on the other hand, continues to rely heavily on JDC for child care services, for aid to its sick and aged, for supplementary relief to its indigent, for rehabilitative and vocational training.

At best, it would seem, the Jews of Germany and Poland will remain becalmed, contributing little to Jewish life except through the emigration of their younger people.

That is why it was almost with relief that the two delegations returned to Paris, even though the tide of Jewish woe there was at flood stage.

But here the Mission was also on solid ground. Germany and Poland were places in which to reflect on the past. Here was an arena in which to act to meet the needs of the day. Allies and colleagues were awaiting them here - the Fonds Social Juif Unifie, the central French Jewish Welfare organization, the representatives of the Standing Conference on European Jewish Community Services; the honored JDC.

Since the summer of 1956, France has withstood the shock of recurrent migrations. Among the hundreds of thousands that fled to that country - from Hungary, from Egypt and other lands, were tens of thousands of Jews, the greatest number coming from the former segments of the French empire, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Two developments provoked the flight of Jews, particularly, from those countries - the clash between the French and Tunisian forces at Bizerte in 1961 and Algeria's independence achieved in July, 1962. The latter development, alone, sent more than 100,000 Jews in flight to France.

In all, 160,000 Jews from North Africa have come to France in the last 18 months. France? Why not Israel?

In Paris, it was not difficult for the Mission to understand. Algerian Jews - like the Jews of France itself - are French citizens, the products of French egalitarianism. Their education, their customs, their mores are French. They came from an area that was as integral to France as Hawaii and Alaska are to the United States. The French government is helping all former residents of Algeria who held citizenship without distinction.

The help is small and inadequate. But Algerian Jews having opted to come to stay in France wish to exercise their rights, to find homes and jobs, and the French-Jewish community, aided by other Jewish communities of the world, is helping them to do so.

There are also the grave problems represented by those who are not French citizens: Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia - the latter group, alone, numbering 30,000. These can receive help only from Jewish sources - the Fonds Social Juif Unifie; the OSE, the Jewish Medical Agency; the ORT, and other JDC-supported organizations.

The three days the Mission spent in Paris - from October 18 until the day of departure for Israel the afternoon of October 22 - were among the most crowded and yet the most informative and fulfilling days experienced by a UJA Mission.

Among other things, they provided an opportunity for the Mission members to pay tribute to the 6,000,000 dead at The Tomb of The Unknown Jewish Martyr. "We have come to this shrine," Rabbi Friedman said, "to dedicate ourselves in the name of the martyrs to help meet the needs of the living."

"To the living" meant intensive consultations with Charles Jordan, JDC Director-General in charge of overseas operations; with Jewish Agency officials, with the directors of the programs of ORT and the United Hias Service.

It meant dialogues with the leaders of the French Jewish community - including Baron Elie de Rothschild, and his brother, Baron Alain de Rothschild who held a reception at his home in honor of the Mission; with Dr. Astorre Mayer of Milan, Italy - Chairman of the Standing Conference on European Jewish Community Services - and the following leaders of this association of Jewish communities of 13 European countries which the JDC was instrumental in rebuilding: Mr. Heinz Galinsky of West Berlin, Chairman of the West German Federation of Jewish Communities; Otto Heim of

Zurich, President of the Swiss Union of Jewish Welfare Agencies; H. Oscar Joseph of London, Chairman of the Central British Fund for Jewish Relief and Rehabilitation; Fritz Hollander of Stockholm, Chairman of the Stockholm Jewish Community; Claude Kelman of Paris, Vice President of the French Federation of Jewish Communities; Otto Levysohn of Copenhagen, President of the Copenhagen Jewish Community; Paul Philippon of Brussels, President of the Brussels Jewish Social Services and President of the Belgium Consistoire; Leon Maierdorf, President of the Brussels Jewish Home for the Aged; Isidore Noah of Athens, President of the Federation of Greek Jewish Communities, and Edouard Spier of Amsterdam, President of the Jewish Social Work Federation of Holland.

It included an intensive tour of the emergency relief installations in Paris for North African Jewish refugees - reception centers, feeding stations, shelters, and the slum area of Belleville in which many of these new arrivals will have to live until better homes can be found for them.

The conditions the Mission saw in Paris prevail not only in that city but in Marseilles, Toulons and other cities, the Mission learned.

"A QUESTION OF HUMAN DIGNITY"

"We at the JDC are more than appreciative of the way you have been helping us take the relief measures necessary to tide these people over the period of their arrival when they find themselves without food, shelter or money," Mr. Jordan told the Mission members. "But we don't want them to go on eating in canteens, sleeping in reception centers, and living in slums twelve to a room for a day longer than is necessary. These are only temporary arrangements. This is a question of human dignity. Your job and ours is to see to it that at the earliest possible moment they have the chance to sit at their own tables in decent homes of their own."

How big is the job? Six years of rising Jewish immigration into France,

capped by a tidal wave of 100,000 Jewish refugees from Algeria, has sent the French Jewish population soaring from 300,000 to over 500,000 - an increase of more than 60 percent. This has created a situation where existing Jewish community facilities and services - welfare agencies, clinics, schools, synagogues, community centers - have been swamped in their efforts to absorb and integrate the newcomers. This applies not only to Paris, but to scores of towns and cities, especially in the south of France, where Jewish communities have doubled, tripled or quadrupled in size of population, particularly in the last four months.

As a result, JDC aid has risen sharply from \$2,500,000 in 1961 to nearly \$3,000,000 in 1962. This sum, almost a third of its total budget for 27 countries outside of Israel, has been pooled with funds raised by the Fonds Social Juif Unifie (\$1,500,000) and the contributions from the countries represented in the Standing Conference on Jewish Community Services (\$150,000).

In 1963 the JDC will have to spend an additional \$2 million - \$5 million in all - in France, both for essential services such as child care, cash relief, canteens, care for the aged, etc. and to begin a long-range program of integration in which building schools, synagogues and community centers to meet the traditional, religious and cultural needs of these newcomers is the first step.

But the tragic plight of the Jewish refugee was not the total picture uncovered by the Mission in Paris. There is a brighter side to the European scene, too. This was the theme of the dinner in observance of the UJA's 25th Anniversary given on Sunday, October 21 by the French and other European Jewish communities, at which Mr. Meyerhoff presided.

"Tonight," Edward M. M. Warburg declared, "we mark not one culmination but two. Twenty-five years of unity and determination on the part of American Jewry and the great post-war record of European Jewry which is demonstrated by the presence of the Standing Conference on European Jewish Services."

Its creation, Mr. Warburg noted, was part of the JDC philosophy of reconstruction - "to get the European Jewish communities on their feet" so that "after the JDC had left, there should continue to be a body of communities in Europe able to help each other find solutions for the problems they had in common."

"TOGETHER YOU HAVE WORKED A MIRACLE"

How did this come about - Jewish communities in Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, and other countries which are now functioning almost on a prewar level?

As the Conference Chairman - Dr. Astorre Mayer who is also Chairman of the Jewish Community of Milan, Italy, declared: "...Through our common friend, the JDC, whom you provided with funds to rebuild our synagogues, our schools, our old age homes, our community centers. Together you have worked a miracle..."

These European Jewish communities have manifested their collective concern over the crisis created by the influx of North African and other Jewish refugees into France by establishing a "UJA" of their own - the Mutual Aid Fund. To this, six communities have already contributed over \$150,000, Dr. Astorre revealed.

"Given the continued generosity and devotion you have shown in the past, and with us on this side doing our share more and more as the years go by these problems will also be surmounted. We hope that already you can regard us as partners in your work."

Here the task was unfinished. UJA aid on the largest scale possible was still vital, essential and indispensable to Jewish reconstruction in Europe. But, as Rabbi Friedman observed: "Today we do not have the sense of desperation and impotence that overwhelmed us 25 years ago."

"In the past quarter of a century we have raised \$1,435,000,000. With it we have repaired the shattered lives of 3 million men, women and children.

"From this achievement we have a feeling of confidence. We also have the

conviction that comes from a great ideal. We leave here knowing we must continue our labors. Once again history offers us the chance to repair damaged lives. We cannot fail the trust that our suffering brother Jews place in us."

And to the leaders of the European Jewish communities - facing this greatest refugee crisis in a decade - came this assurance from Mr. Meyerhoff: "The dark days after the Nazi tyranny taught us that no problem is insurmountable. As we have solved the problem of the DP's and the survivors of the concentration camps, so we will solve those that face us today."

* * *
AMERICAN JEWISH
THE MISSION COMES TO ISRAEL
ARCHIVES

The most rapid changes in Jewish climate and outlook can be achieved by a five hour jet flight from Paris to Lod Airport in Israel. Here has occurred a phenomenon that not only the Jewish people, but all the people the world has come to regard as a miracle of achievement - the acceptance of more than 1 million Jewish refugees in the short space of 14 years.

Here the UJA lifeline made it possible - in each of the years 1949, 1950 and 1951 - for Israel, a country prostrated by war, short of housing, food, industry to receive immigrants at the rate of from 170,000 to 200,000 annually.

At one time - 1951 - more than 200,000 immigrants could be housed no better than in tents and in shacks.

Today - this ma'abarot population is down to less than 3,000 persons.

Today - the "ship to settlement" scheme is bringing immigrants into cities, towns and villages which did not exist in 1948 and which range in age from six years - Dimona, to one month - Arad.

The result of this lifeline of aid and the sacrifices of the people of Israel: the end of the tortuous quest for homes for more than 1,200,000 Jewish refugees.

But even to as seasoned a group as the Mission members, it was a jolt to learn that the greatest portion of the financial burden of the costs of immigrant absorption has fallen on the Israel taxpayer.

The very first day of briefing, conducted by Aryeh L. Pincus, Treasurer of the Jewish Agency revealed this:

The Jewish Agency which is responsible for organizing immigration abroad, bringing the immigrants to Israel, settling the newcomers on the land and helping them to become self-supporting, and which seeks to finance these activities with funds raised by UJA, and by campaigns among other sections of world Jewry, has been able only to provide one third of the funds needed for Israel's immigrants.

The other two-thirds comes from the people of Israel, via taxes and compulsory loans.

NEED 15,000 HOUSING UNITS

But the 15,000 housing units that must be built to meet the needs of those coming to Israel this year will require an expenditure of \$68 million - IL 200 million. Meanwhile, as Mr. Pincus revealed, "neither the current income of the Jewish Agency from the UJA and other Jewish sources, nor the taxes the government of Israel could divert for this purpose would be sufficient to meet these and other vital immigrant absorption costs."

"At a time of rising - and eagerly sought for - immigration, financial help that is too little or too late would be the most serious setback to the task we have jointly undertaken - that of saving Jews by bringing them to Israel," Mr. Pincus said.

The greatest reason for increasing the proportion of UJA aid was best presented by a group of immigrants whose arrival the Mission witnessed. As the October 23rd issue of the Jerusalem Post described it: "A dramatic climax to a day of surveys,

lectures, facts and figures, came to the 145 members of the United Jewish Appeal Study Mission last night when they witnessed the arrival at Lod Airport of 280 new immigrants within an hour, on three planes.

"It was an occasion when both the immigrants and the Americans were unsuccessful in fighting back tears. Many of the newcomers were smothered in the embraces of welcoming sons and daughters, some of the reunions representing years of prayerful waiting.

"...After a hot meal, each arrival was issued an immigrant's certificate. Each head of the family was given IL 10.00 and IL 5.00 for each member of the family. Food parcels containing rice, sugar, jam, oil, tea, beans and smaller items such as matches, candles, salt and pepper were issued.

"Within two hours of arrival, the first of them piled into buses and taxis for the night ride to their new homes in 18 towns and settlements from Nahariya in the north to Dimona in the south."

The thrilling sequence of events - arrival one evening and settlement by the next in fully furnished apartments in a score of cities and towns throughout the country which the Mission witnessed after a flight to Dimona - was just one of those miracles which have become an every day occurrence, thanks to the pooling of the free gift dollar resources provided by UJA and Israel state revenues.

It was a perfect example of how closely the national effort is tied into the fabric of sound immigrant absorption. In Israel's first years, food shortages dictated the establishment of newcomer farm settlements. These absorbed 30,000 immigrant families and helped to create the food abundance the country now enjoys.

Later settlement areas were developed as self-contained economic units, with farm villages as well as industries. An example is the Lachish area, where the settlers grow a variety of crops, especially cotton, groundnuts and sugar beets

for industrial use. These crops give employment to the residents of Kiryat Gat whose plants include a cotton gin, a spinning mill, a textile plant, a sugar mill and other industries.

ISRAEL'S FUTURE LIES IN THE NEGEV

Today, with the water made available by the Western Galilee-Kishon and Yarkon-Negev projects, the Negev is being pushed as a major settlement area. It is in the Negev where the immigrant's - and Israel's - future lie. Its vast areas not only provide living space for a rapidly expanding population, but economic elbow room for the entire nation. Most of Israel's mineral resources are in the Negev, including the wealth of the Dead Sea, and vast reserves of natural gas. It awaits only the completion of the Jordan-Negev pipeline and its assimilation into the national water grid to fulfill all the hopes Israel has for the Negev as the agricultural and industrial center of the country.

For this reason Dimona now holds 13,000 Jews (an increase of 7,000 in 16 months); Ascalon 6,000; Ashdod, the nation's new port city and future Mediterranean outlet for the products of the Negev, 12,000. Meanwhile Arad has just been opened, and other Negev development towns and farm areas are in the planning stages.

These and other facts were provided by Aharon Zisling, head of the Jewish Agency Absorption Department at luncheon at the Ulpan Hostel in Beersheba.

The origins of Dimona's population accurately reflects the makeup of Israel's entire Jewish population: Jews from North Africa (the majority here); Eastern Europe, India, Iran, Yemen, Iraq and native-born Israelis.

Dimona's main employment is provided by textile and fibre mills, the Dead Sea works at nearby Sodom for the extraction of chemicals, mining, trades, professions and services.

More than 3,000 children are attending primary school, and the number grows with the arrival of each immigrant family.

But it was the housing problem that absorbed the Mission's attention. Dimona's population occupies 2,500 units in buildings three to four stories high, with 2,000 others planned for immediate construction. These buildings are a far cry from the tin huts of the ma'abarot, and the asbestos huts of the late 1950's - which once were the best housing the country could give its newcomers.

"Our vast experience has made it clear that no useful purpose is served by providing the same family with temporary housing two or three times, and then housing of a semi-permanent character before actually providing that family with its permanent home," Mr. Zisling said.

"Today we are building immigrant housing of a standard and quality which are on a par with public housing construction in other countries. We have come to recognize that from the financial, social, welfare and urban planning standpoints, it is a sounder policy to construct the type of immigrant housing that will be in keeping both with the highest standards of development and our modest means."

Mr. Zisling told the Mission that the most powerful deterrent to the Absorption Department's efforts is created by the lack of funds. Ideally, Israel should have a housing reserve that is at least 25 percent greater than the anticipated rate of arrivals. "If we need 10,000 housing units, we should have enough funds to build an additional 2,500 units so that we shall never be in danger of being caught short, as we almost always are."

SOURCE OF JORDAN PIPELINE TO NEGEV

The third day of the Mission's survey tour brought it to Korazim, overlooking the headwaters of the Jordan River, the source of the new Negev pipeline - which, when completed, will be the greatest engineering exploit in the Middle East.

Here the Mission learned why defense was as vital as engineering to the completion of the project. First, to avoid armed conflict with the Arabs, the original

and preferred site on the upper reaches of the Jordan River, north of Sea of Galilee, was abandoned. This would have provided a water supply of a much lower chemical content than the present source - the Sea of Galilee, itself - and also would have permitted the erection of a giant electric generator driven by the Jordan waters.

Nevertheless, as the engineers pointed out, this Israeli project is being planned and constructed so that it can be integrated in the future, if need be, into the regional water plan suggested by Eric Johnston which would include Syria, Jordan and possibly Lebanon.

In a dining hall at Korazim, from which the views of the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan were breathtaking, General Abraham Yoffe, Chief of the Northern Command and Baruch Wenderoff, Chief Engineer of the National Water Authority, briefed the Mission members on the Jordan-Negev water development project.

The scheme makes use of the Sea of Galilee as the main reservoir of the chief water "household" of Israel.

Pumping installations will lift the waters from this fresh-water sea - 210 meters below sea level - to a conduit 40 meters above that level. The waters will then be carried by a series of open canals, a giant reservoir, tunnels and a pipeline 108 inches in diameter to the Yarkon-Negev line. There the water will become part of the national water scheme, to which it will add many millions of cubic meters of water annually.

One important question was raised by the Mission: Would the use of Galilee waters deprive neighboring Arab countries of the water they normally require for domestic and agricultural use?

Mr. Wenderoff assured them it would not, for the following reasons:

First, the pipeline will divert less water than Israel is legally entitled to under the Johnston plan.

Second, even a portion of what Israel will draw will be returned from the main lines to the Jordan River to make up for the loss of water from the Sea of Galilee and Yarmuk River waters which is on the Jordan side.

Third, Israel is also working on a scheme to divert a large number of underground springs into the Jordan River.

The Mission saw another great engineering feat being performed when it visited Ashdod. Once the great port city of the ancient Kingdom of Philistia, it is being restored by Israel's Port Authority as a major outlet to the sea for the products of the vast Negev hinterland. Already the jetties and the breakwaters of the future port are of impressive size and length, and by the end of 1964, Ashdod should be capable of handling more than one million tons of cargo a year, and more than five million by the end of 1970. It is not only destined to become Israel's second biggest Mediterranean port - after Haifa - but like that city, an important center for heavy industry. Its population growth also has been phenomenal - from a handful of sabras and immigrants who staked out the area shortly after the Sinai campaign, to more than 12,000, today.

JDC-MALBEN SERVICES FOR IMMIGRANTS

Another side to the absorption story was revealed to the Mission during visits to several of the JDC-Malben installations. Israel's open-door policy has resulted in the admission of the kind of Jewish immigrant no other country would accept on a permanent basis - the man who is chronically ill, or the hopelessly handicapped, either physically or mentally, the overaged and other hard core cases whose eventual rehabilitation can only be achieved after years of costly medical and institutional care. Huge numbers of such social cases arrived last year.

The Mission visited the Tel Hashomer Government Hospital - the country's largest medical center - where the earliest psychiatric ward in Israel was opened in 1959

through the joint efforts of JDC-Malben and the Ministry of Health. The occasion: to participate in the cornerstone laying ceremony for the new building for the hospital's Psychiatric Department which Malben and Ministry of Health will staff and operate under the Psychiatric Trust Fund.

Other places visited were Malben's Mahane Israel Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre near Lod, the only institution in Israel devoted to the care of adult cerebral palsy victims, and the Malben Home for The Aged at Givat Hashlosha. These are just three of the more than 40 institutions maintained by JDC-Malben, which care for nearly 50,000 persons yearly. For its remarkable Malben program the JDC has utilized more than \$125 million in UJA funds during the past 13 years, thereby contributing enormously to the health and welfare of Israel's immigrants.

ISRAEL MARKS UJA ANNIVERSARY

During the Mission's 11-day stay in Israel, there took place two events dedicated to the observance of the forthcoming 25th Anniversary of the United Jewish Appeal. How Israel felt was best expressed by Mr. Aryeh Pincus, the Jewish Agency Treasurer, when he told the group:

"...There is not a blade of grass, there is not a field, there is not a farm - collective or private, there is not an enterprise - industrial or otherwise, there is not a human being in this country that will not be able to say to you: all this in some measure was due to the indefatigable work that was done by the Jews in America during the last 24 years."

The Israel press took note of UJA's anniversary with numerous editorials and feature stories.

Kol Israel, Israel's broadcasting service, devoted more than 12 hours of prime radio time to UJA, including transmissions from Paris as the Mission visited there, interviews with UJA leaders, Jewish Agency officers, members of the Government and

ministries, and day to day reporting on the Mission's activities as it visited various parts of the country.

The Israel Post Office also designed a stamp which will be issued in December - the first such honor to fall to a non-Israel Jewish organization.

On October 27th the Israel National Committee for the Observance of the UJA's 25th Anniversary headed by Moshe Sharett, M.K. who is Jewish Agency Chairman and a former Israel Prime Minister, honored the Mission at an "Israel Salutes UJA" gala concert at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv. The event was attended by 3,000 persons. Here Mr. Meyerhoff accepted the scroll of the National Committee on behalf of UJA. Members of the Israel National Committee include more than 70 of the country's most distinguished leaders in private and public life.

The final Anniversary event was the Prime Minister's dinner, Tuesday evening, October 30, at the Hotel Sheraton - Tel-Aviv. Here Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion; Kaddish Luz, the distinguished Speaker of the Knesset; Dr. Nahum Goldman, President of the World Zionist Organization and UJA's General Chairman, Mr. Meyerhoff, were the speakers.

Earlier that day the traditional caucus meeting of the Mission members took place. Out of it came a resolution which, it is hoped, will serve as a framework for action by the Delegates to the United Jewish Appeal's 25th Annual National Conference when they meet in New York, December 7, 8, 9, to consider the needs and objectives of the 1963 campaign.

The views presented by a number of the Mission leaders, and the personalities who addressed the Mission on various occasions - all authoritative spokesmen on Jewish needs - so imbued the thinking of the framers of the resolution, that they deserve specific mention.

One was provided by Edward M. M. Warburg, Chairman of the JDC, when he pointed

out in his address in Paris that the funds which the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany contributes to JDC, amounting to \$9 million annually, would be terminated by the end of 1964.

"Let me not underestimate how much we have been aided in recent years by the funds made available through the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany," Mr. Warburg declared. "If I have spoken of the building and rebuilding of schools or of community centers and other institutions, let it be clear that in large measure these have been made possible only because of the restitution funds which the Claims Conference allocated for this purpose.

"...the full contribution of the Claims Conference will perhaps be most noticed when its funds are no longer available. I know you appreciate this as we do; that is why we have been working and planning together so carefully for the days after 1964.

"It is vital that we do such planning for the future; for while we have seen many changes in the map of the world, and in the map of Jewish need in these 25 years, there yet remains many unsolved problems, many great and still unanswered questions, many unfinished items still part of our agenda."

Moshe Sharett, addressing an evening session of the Mission's many deliberations, stressed the fact that:

"A prolonged and concerted effort of free gift financing is essential, if we are not to miss the chances of rescue...and if we are to offer those saved the opportunity of rebuilding their lives on a solid foundation.

"...Bond issues, private investment capital, complement work made possible by the free gift funds contributed by the UJA.

"They build upon the foundations laid by UJA - foundations which must continue to be laid as long as a mass immigration of impecunious people continues to flow,

and the need for developing the land's latent resources without the expectation of a financial return persists.

"By now it is patent that the range of UJA's work is to be measured not in terms of years but of decades...The UJA's 25th Anniversary is an important milestone - it is by far not the journey's end...As long as there are Jews oppressed by spiritual bondage or vegetating in material misery, the work of the UJA will not be done. If only their rescue is attainable, these communities must be salvaged and brought over, settled and integrated. The process takes time, but as long as it is a life-giving one, its length must be matched by patience and perseverance.

"The celebration of the UJA's 25th Anniversary...is a great opportunity for taking stock of these historic realities in terms both of a long range program and of the compelling tasks of the moment."

Levi Eshkol, Israel's Minister of Finance, who celebrated his 67th birthday at a Mission dinner, raised a similar point as he spoke of Israel's hope to reach the 3 million mark in population by 1970 both through immigration and natural increase.

"What shall we have to do to settle and absorb these additional 700,000? First we shall have to work very hard. We shall have to invest huge sums of money, not only tax money and investment funds, but UJA gifts because the newcomers we shall be receiving will be, for the most part, penniless immigrants who will bring with them no dowry of skills or trades - for whom we shall have to build thousands of new housing units, provide additional education and health services, invest heavily in new development areas, in new settlements and in industrial expansion. This will continue to create a financial burden too great to be carried by the people of Israel alone.

"At no time in the visible future can we foresee a lessening of the need of UJA

aid. In fact, I must appeal to American Jewry to match the efforts and sacrifices of Israel's citizens, to play their full part in this joint effort we are making to absorb and integrate recent arrivals and the immigrants still to come."

One of the danger spots in Israel that needed world Jewry's immediate attention was caused by the discrepancy in numbers between students of European origin and those from the Moslem world attending secondary schools, according to Abba Eban, Minister of Education and Culture.

"If you look over our universities and institutes of scientific research you will find that only five percent of the 13,000 graduates and other students come from one-half of our population - namely the oriental half. Of the 2,000 who received degrees last year at the Hebrew University, there were only 29 of oriental origin...This means that all the future leaders of the country - the chief officers and the judges and the doctors and the lawyers are all going to be drawn from one part of the population.

"The decision which we must look to you for help is the one which will decide whether we are going to be a single Israel, sharing a common historic experience and aspiration or whether we are going to be kind of Algeria or South Africa, with problems such as you have in the southern United States...The central issue of our social unity is now at issue, and the only way to build a bridge over this gap is by embracing more and more of the young people in the new immigrant communities in secondary and higher education."

And, of course, there was the confident note sounded by Mr. Ben-Gurion in his address at the final Mission session which saw the partnership between the people of Israel and the Jews of the free world - particularly American Jewry - as an enduring one.

"I am confident," Mr. Ben-Gurion told the Mission members "that this creative

partnership. . .will steadily grow. . .No achievement is impossible for this partnership. Through this partnership we shall succeed. . .in preparing our country to absorb hundreds of thousands who yearn for redemption but are still confined, bring up our young generation for labor and intellectual endeavor, close the spiritual, cultural, social and economic gap between the modern tribes of Israel, increase the skills and technological capacity of the younger generation, enhance the efficiency of our economy, raise our productivity. . .populate and fructify the wilderness in northern Galilee and the Negev, and consolidate our international status - so that every Jew, wherever he may be, shall be proud of his free and independent people in his ancient homeland."

The final note, however, was sounded by President Itzhak Ben-Zvi before a large delegation of Mission members who came to his official residence in Jerusalem to pay a pre-departure call.

Modestly disclaiming any credit for the gains recorded by Israel during his ten years in office - he had just been reelected to an unprecedented third term - Mr. Ben-Zvi credited instead the people of Israel and world Jewry for this.

"During my recent visit to the African states, the President of Liberia remarked that his country had 30,000 taxpayers.

"Our small nation," I replied, "is more fortunately endowed. In addition to the taxes of the 2 million Jews who live here, Israel could count on the voluntary support it receives each year from the 5 million Jews of the United States and hundreds of thousands of dedicated Jews in other free countries. Although living outside of Israel, they have been contributing unstintingly and continuously to the building of the state, thus making it possible for Israel to accept and absorb the many thousands who have come here, and will continue to come."

These powerful and penetrating insights were borne out by these compelling facts:

The tremendous pressures on the JDC and the French Jewish community, created by the rising needs of 160,000 recent Jewish refugees.

The even greater burden imposed on the people of Israel to meet the second largest immigration in a decade.

The certain prospect that this heavy movement of Jews to Israel will continue in 1963.

Out of these pressures - and this soul-searching inquiry overseas - came the resolution which the Mission adopted unanimously, of which the following is its core:

"WE RESOLVE to return to our communities, determined to mobilize maximum support for the adoption of such goal that will be commensurate with the needs of the constituent agencies of the United Jewish Appeal, and with the economic potential of the American Jewish communities to support such a goal.

"Therefore we

"RESOLVE to urge upon the delegates to the forthcoming 25th UJA National Annual Conference to retain the principle of EXTRA GIVING through the UJA SPECIAL FUND as the most effective means to realize our goal for 1963."

This is more than a statement. It is a summation of the mood, the spirit and the resolve with which this largest Mission in UJA history returned to the United States. In the words of one of its members: "We have no choice but to lead the Jewish communities of America in the greatest United Jewish Appeal campaign of the last ten years."

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RESOLUTION
UNITED JEWISH APPEAL 8TH STUDY MISSION
Adopted Oct. 30, 1962 - Hotel Accadia, Herzlia, Israel

We, the 145 members of the United Jewish Appeal's 8th Study Mission, constituting the largest study mission of UJA national and communal leaders ever to come to Europe and Israel, have just completed our inquiry of the overseas needs of the Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency.

The frame of reference for this inquiry was first provided by our experience in the two focal points of Jewish need today - France and Israel. In the former country we saw the tragic problems created by the very rapid influx of 160,000 refugees from North Africa: the shortage of housing, penniless families struggling to stay together, the undernourished children, the disillusioned youth and the new Jewish ghettos that are springing up at an alarming rate in the slums of Paris, Marseilles and Toulons.

We have seen in Israel a nation geared physically and spiritually to the task of absorbing the thousands of newcomers that are arriving each month. Here the ma'abarot have been almost totally liquidated, replaced by new dynamic towns in the development areas where the immigrant can be swiftly absorbed. We have seen the newcomer and his family move into a modern flat in such a development project within hours of his arrival, fortified by the knowledge that Israel is not only providing him with a home but hopefully will provide him with a job, an elementary school education for his children and medical and rehabilitation care.

As a result of the upheavals that are taking place in many parts of the world, Israel represents the only hope of survival for hundreds of thousands of Jews now living in these countries.

(more)

Therefore, the most important conclusion that we have drawn from our own survey, and our consultations with the leaders of the Government of Israel, the Jewish Agency and the JDC, is that the range of UJA's work - particularly on behalf of the countless thousands forced to flee their homes and the newcomers in Israel - the rescue of those who can be saved, and the work of reconstruction and absorption must continue with renewed vigor.

The challenge and the opportunity that this poses to us - the most prosperous Jewish community in the world - make it imperative that the national goal which the United Jewish Appeal should adopt for 1963 should be commensurate with those needs and one that will reflect fully and accurately American Jewry's economic capabilities.

Therefore, at this critical juncture in our history of overseas aid,

WE RESOLVE to return to our communities, determined to mobilize maximum support for the adoption of such goal that will be commensurate with the needs of the constituent agencies of the United Jewish Appeal, and with the economic potential of the American Jewish communities to support such a goal.

These are irreducible needs. Therefore

WE RESOLVE to urge upon the delegates to the forthcoming 25th UJA National Annual Conference to retain the principle of EXTRA GIVING through the UJA SPECIAL FUND as the most effective means to realize our goal for 1963.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that we shall urge the representatives of every community attending this 25th UJA Annual Conference to restudy these needs with a view toward increasing their regular allocations to the UJA; and thus assure the assumption by each community of its fair and proportionate share in this national responsibility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for this great humanitarian cause we shall do our utmost to raise our own standards of giving and work diligently for the fulfilment of the established goals in each of our respective communities.

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TO OBSERVE THE UJA 25TH ANNIVERSARY**

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PROGRESS and PROBLEMS



A Report to American Jewry

Submitted by the

ANNUAL UNITED JEWISH APPEAL STUDY MISSION

to Israel, Europe and Moslem Lands

October 14-28, 1963

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A Report to American Jewry
Submitted by the
AMERICAN JEWISH
9th ANNUAL UNITED JEWISH APPEAL STUDY MISSION
ARCHIVES
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Note: This material is submitted for your personal information. It is not to be reprinted in whole or part, or given out for quotation in the press or other public information media.

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THEY AIDED THE MISSION

A Foreword

In this report of the 9th Annual United Jewish Appeal Study Mission we have chosen to summarize primarily those happenings which bear on the reception and absorption of Israel's immigrants, and to mention by name the individuals associated with these events. But the report would not be complete if we did not make warm acknowledgement to many other people who contributed to the success of our Mission, and who provided us with other illuminating glimpses into the story of Israel today.

As noted in the report, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol honored us with an official State Dinner on October 28, which served as the closing occasion for the Mission, at which he delivered an impressive address. But earlier that same day we were warmly received at the Beit Hanassi by the President of Israel, Schneour Zalman Shazar. The reception was an unforgettable highlight of a memorable day.

Four leading members of the Government of Israel also spoke to our Mission and contributed greatly to our understanding of various problems. Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's remarkable Minister for Foreign Affairs, graciously received us at her home in Jerusalem and answered our many questions on matters of foreign policy. Israel's able Minister of Finance, Commerce and Industry, Pinhas Sapir, journeyed to Haifa and outlined for our group both Israel's current economic progress and the heavy burden which recent immigration has put on the Israel taxpayer. Abba Eban, Deputy Prime Minister, spoke to us in Jerusalem with enormous clarity and effect on many problems concerning Israel's future, particularly in the area of education. And Shimon Peres, Deputy Minister of Defense, met with us at Herzlia and outlined in succinct, illuminating terms the country's security problems.

Additionally, as noted in the report, Israel's former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and Mrs. Ben-Gurion graciously received us at Sde Boker.

The Chairman of The Jewish Agency, Moshe Sharett, former Prime Minister of Israel, and one of the State's founding fathers, was our guiding spirit in many ways throughout the Mission. As noted in the report, he was ably assisted by Jewish Agency Treasurer, Louis Aryeh Pincus. S. Z. Shragai of The Jewish Agency Executive and head of the Immigration Department gave us notable assistance, as did Dr. Ra'anan Weitz, also of the Executive, and head of the Agricultural Settlement Department. Dr. Israel Goldstein, Chairman of the Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal, and his associates, kindly tendered us a reception. Another Jewish Agency leader who helped us was Benjamin Kaplan, Director of Settlement of the Negev Region. Theodore Feder, Director General of Malben, JDC in Israel, and his associates, were of greatest help. We were the guests, as well, of Col. I. Pundak, Director of the Arad settlement, and his colleagues.

Brigadier General David Elazar, of the Israel Defense Forces, and his associates extended us valuable assistance. Meanwhile, as noted in report, we were greatly assisted by two former Chiefs of Staff, Major General Haim Laskov, now Director General of Israel's Port Authority and Major General Mordecai Makleff, Manager of the Dead Sea Works, and their fellow-workers.

Extremely important help was extended to us by a number of persons who worked out the details of various phases of the Mission. These included: Moshe Rivlin, Secretary General of the Jewish Agency, and his associates, Teddy Kollek, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, Syd Applebaum, also of the Prime Minister's Office, and Mrs. Shoshana Fiddler of the Deputy Prime Minister's Office. Mrs. Shulamit Lubin, Publicity Director of JDC-Malben and Samuel Jaffe, JDC European Publicity Director.

In this connection our particular thanks go to the Jewish Agency staff members associated with the UJA Visitors' Bureau and Chaim Vinitzky, the Bureau's director. They also go to Mr. Jacob Oletski and his associates at ORT, and to the members of the staffs of the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovot, Technion in Haifa, and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Additionally, we benefited from the invaluable assistance of Ted Lurie, Managing Editor of the JERUSALEM POST, and his associates; Hannoch Gifton, Director of KOL ISRAEL, the Israel broadcasting service, and his staff, and David Landor, Director of the Israel Office of Press Information, and his associates.

Finally, it was the people of Israel themselves, old-timers and new immigrants alike, who made our visit the success that it was.

PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS

Israel, in the 15th year of its national independence, is a dynamic, still-young, forward-looking state marked both by amazing progress and serious problems.

The progress is there for even the passing visitor to see.

The new skyscrapers of Tel Aviv...the construction going on everywhere...the cities and towns that are springing up in once unpopulated areas...the cultivated fields that stretch down to the Negev desert...the heavy traffic day and night on Israel's roads...the smoke of new factories...and the crowds in the country's supermarkets...all of these are signs by which even the most casual tourist can sense something of the country's health, strength and record of achievement.

But the visit of the 9th Annual United Jewish Appeal Study Mission to Israel, and earlier to Europe, was not made in a casual way.

Led by Joseph Meyerhoff of Baltimore, UJA General Chairman, and Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman of New York, UJA Executive Vice-Chairman, we arrived in Israel 140 members strong on Thursday, October 17, 1963.

We came from some 30 leading American cities, with each Mission member making the journey at his own expense. Wives, all of them active in UJA and related activities, made up approximately half our membership.

Twenty-two of the Mission members were UJA national officers, or members of the UJA Cabinet or special UJA divisions including the Young Leadership and Women's Divisions. Seventeen of the Mission members were Chairmen-elect of the 1964 campaigns or trade divisions in their communities, or were Presidents-elect of their local Welfare Funds.

The UJA national officers on the Mission, in addition to Mr. Meyerhoff and Rabbi Friedman, included four National Chairmen: Isadore Breslau, Washington, D.C.; Melvin Dubinsky, St. Louis; Max M. Fisher, Detroit, and Edward Ginsberg, Cleveland.

Other officers were: Mrs. Israel D. Fink, Minneapolis, National Chairman, Women's Division; Dewey D. Stone, Boston, Honorary Chairman; Samuel H. Daroff, Philadelphia, Honorary National Chairman; Gottlieb Hammer, New York, Executive Vice-Chairman, United Israel Appeal-Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc., and Secretary, UJA; Moses A. Leavitt, New York, Executive Vice-Chairman, Joint Distribution Committee and Secretary, UJA, and Irving Bernstein, New York, UJA Assistant Executive Vice-Chairman.

As members of the ninth successive UJA Study Mission we had come to Israel to see for ourselves the heroic spectacle of a people reborn, going forward with giant strides toward self-sufficient nationhood, and to take the same pleasure and pride in it that Jews everywhere take.

But we also had come to see something of Israel's problems, if any. As leaders and key workers in our home communities, we wanted to know what might be required in 1964 in support of the United Jewish Appeal's historic and inspiring program of Jewish rescue and immigrant aid with which American Jews have been identified now for a quarter of a century.

The Lesson Of The First 24 Hours

In our first 24 hours in Israel, we were thrilled by some of Israel's most inspiring sights. And in those same 24 hours we had put to us one of the grimmest, most sobering, challenges ever presented to a UJA study mission.

At 9:00 a.m., on Friday morning, October 18, we stood in at a special section of Lydda, Israel's chief airport. We were there to witness what, after a decade and a half, is still the greatest moment in Israel: the precise moment when an immigrant ship or plane comes to rest and yet another group of refugees streams down the gang-plank or landing ramp out of darkness and fear, into Israel and freedom.

That morning at Lydda we saw 169 immigrants from North Africa, many of them children, enter and be welcomed in the Jewish State - citizens by right. We saw

wife reunited with husband, crying with tears of joy, mother rejoined with children, and brother brought together again with brother. These episodes are indescribable and unforgettable.

An hour and a half later we stood in the midst of one of Israel's newest marvels - Ashdod, a port and port city in the making, already a community of 9,000, and scheduled to be Israel's second largest seaport when it is completed in 1965. As Major-General Haim Laskov, Israel's former Chief of Staff and now Director of Israel's Port Authority, pointed out to us -- there was little to see in Ashdod but sand four short years before and now there was city block on city block of housing, a busy industrial zone, and the outlines of a great harbor rising out of the sea.

But that evening, we were brought sharply out of our state of pleasant excitement.

One of Israel's most able and dedicated builders, Louis Aryeh Pincus, Treasurer of the Jewish Agency, UJA's chief beneficiary organization, warned us bluntly as follows:

"My great problem is to make people aware that even with development of the State of Israel, everything is not quite so lovely as it appears on the surface... to try point out to you, and to stress, the needs -- the overwhelming needs -- of so much that has to be done, to try point out that when a year goes by and we say that, last year so many Jews came into the country, you haven't solved the problem of those Jews...Israel's achievements are true and factual. [But] in many cases they tend to hide enormous suffering, intense suffering, an accumulation of suffering which can in a real sense make us pay the penalty in years to come!"

Thus on our first day we were made aware of an Israel in which achievement has been piled on achievement, but in which we also were faced with the following unhappy facts:

One Out Of Four - Not Absorbed

1. That while 1,100,000 have reached Israel since 1948, largely with UJA help - one out of every four - perhaps even one out of every three - is far from absorbed.
2. That this lack of absorption takes many forms -- lack of suitable housing, unemployment, underemployment, need for social services and welfare care, and lack of educational opportunities, including vocational training or secondary education, for the young immigrant.
3. That at least 200,000 recent immigrants are all ill-housed - with 30,000 families of five to eight persons living in one room, or one and a half rooms, apartments of 350 sq. feet or less, while several thousands of persons still live in the ma'abarot, and 25,000 persons still live in the "asbestonim", (temporary huts of asbestos siding).
4. That the last three years of renewed heavy immigration, which Jews everywhere welcomed, also brought with it a steep rise in the number of social cases - in aged, handicapped, blind and chronically ill persons. This rise has placed fresh burdens on the Jewish Agency, and on Israel's people. (JDC-Malben, which meets a large part of the immigrant social case problem, noted a 17 per cent rise in 1963 in the applications for its assistance.)
5. That the pace of immigrant absorption has never kept up with the pace of immigration itself, and the gap between the two has become more marked in recent years, with a consequent rise in human suffering.
6. That if this problem of slow immigrant absorption continues to go unattended, Israel's progress and development can be seriously impeded.
7. And finally, that Israel's two million people -- today bearing two-

thirds of the cost of receiving and absorbing the newcomers (along with bearing alone the heavy costs of Defense and other aspects of nation building) -- cannot do more than they are doing. It is the responsibility of the Jews of the free world -- and particularly the Jews of the United States -- to come forward with the huge additional sums that are required to see the job of rescue completed with full absorption aid for all who have come.

It is the purpose of this report to tell how and why we came to these conclusions, and to submit our thinking to the considered attention of the American Jewish community for effective, responsible and swift action:

The Mission In Rome

The Mission formally opened on Monday, October 14, in Rome's Excelsior Hotel.*

As noted by Joseph Meyerhoff, UJA General Chairman:

"We have come to Europe, and are going to Israel -- and some of us have been to Moslem countries -- to determine the most pressing needs of our fellow Jews in these lands in a time of vast changes that are creating new and more challenging problems for all Jews."

In a sense, however, our Mission began even before October 14. Four sub-Missions made advance trips into North Africa, France (with special emphasis on Marseille), Central Europe and Iran. These visits were concerned both with the needs of Jews still resident in these areas and effect of the recent migrations of large numbers of Jews from some of them.

James Permutt, a member of UJA's Cabinet, reported on the sub-Mission's visit to France; Mrs. I. D. Fink, UJA Women's Division Chairman, reported on the findings in Morocco; Joseph Mazer, UJA Special Fund Honorary Chairman, told of his group's visit

* See listing of 9th Annual UJA Study Mission members, back cover.

to one of the European "exit" cities, and Joseph Meyerhoff, UJA General Chairman, told of the sub-Mission's visit to Iran.

In Rome our three days of sessions were concerned primarily with the Jewish needs in Europe and Moslem lands facing the Joint Distribution Committee, one of UJA's two constituent agencies.

But we were also concerned with the work in these areas of other bodies: The Jewish Agency for Israel (the United Israel Appeal-Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc. is UJA's major constituent); the United Hias Service, the world-wide Jewish migration agency, and ORT (the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training), both UJA beneficiaries.

One of those who participated in our sessions was Baron Guy de Rothschild, distinguished head of the French Jewish community.

Charles Jordan, Director-General for Overseas Operations, JDC, played a major role at the sessions outlining JDC's problems, while various JDC representatives also spoke. These included Herbert Katzki, Assistant Overseas Director for JDC, speaking on Morocco, Sidney Engle, JDC Director for Iran, and Dr. Sidney Nelson, JDC Director for France.

But the main findings of the Rome sessions were summed up for us by Moses A. Leavitt, Executive Vice-Chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, as follows:

1. The JDC in Europe and Moslem areas is faced not with a lessening, but with a substantial increase in its financial and other responsibilities, because "the flight of Jews from many countries continues unabated." (For reasons that the readers of this report will understand - the facts and figures on this flight are not given here.)

2. In France the JDC must meet a situation that has grown out of the 1962 flight of more than 100,000 Algerian Jews into that country. Thousands of these Jews are

now turning to JDC, and the French Jewish agencies it aids, for welfare assistance they did not need a year ago. Now they are without their previous resources.

3. Meanwhile, the JDC is faced with increased needs in other areas, particularly Algeria, so recently vacated by most of its Jews. Here, although there are only several thousand Jews left, all organized community assistance disappeared in the exodus of 1962. Those who remain are those least able to help themselves and can turn only to JDC. Thus JDC will spend more in 1964 than in 1962 on its Algerian program.

Three Events Of High Interest

Our visit to Rome was marked by three additional events of high interest.

On Monday, October 14, the Mission was received by Pope Paul VI, in a private audience at the Apostolic Palace - the first such audience the new Pope had granted to a Jewish group.

In a time when important and liberalizing changes in the stand of the Catholic Church on many issues are in the making, we made this visit to the Vatican because it seemed to hold promise of contributing to the improvement of relations between Jews and their Catholic neighbors.

A similar motive caused the 1960 Mission to visit the late Pope John XXIII, who greeted that group with the unforgettable and heartwarming statement, "I am Joseph, your brother."

Now his distinguished successor similarly received us warmly, with words of praise for the life-saving work represented by UJA. To our Mission, Pope Paul declared, "We have the same God and the same Bible. Therefore let us pray to the Almighty to guide, comfort and bless us."

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, UJA Executive Vice-Chairman, summed up the feelings of all of us, when he noted, "Men of good will the world over are seeking today to

find the roots of their brotherhood," adding that he hoped the Second Vatican (Ecumenical) Council would further "the feeling of solidarity between men of all faiths."

A second memorable event - an entirely different sort of occurrence - took place the next day when we visited the Ardeatine Caves Memorial outside of Rome. During World War II, 335 Italians -- 71 of them Jews -- were executed here by Nazi troops in reprisal for a bombing attack by the resistance, in which 33 Germans were killed or wounded.

A wreath to the martyrs was laid by Joseph Mazer, UJA Special Fund Honorary Chairman and Mr. Meyerhoff. Grand Rabbi Toaf, of Rome's Great Synagogue, conducted the moving memorial service.

The final event occurred on Wednesday, October 16, when the Mission flew to Naples. There at a special staging camp we met and talked with immigrants from a certain European country on their way to Israel.

And at the airport we saw a group of 142 emplane for the Jewish state -- people who asked us to thank the Jews of America for the help we have extended them -- men and women who knew they were going at last to a land of their own, where other Jews stood ready to see them through to a new and more meaningful life. It was a proud and moving moment, with hardly a dry eye in both groups.

The Visit In Israel

As we have already noted, our Mission landed in Israel on Thursday, October 17, and by Friday evening, October 18, had been confronted with examples of Israel at its most exciting and most depressing.

The two opposing themes of great human achievement and grave human shortcomings, of inspiring progress and disturbing problems, were to recur again and again during our ten-day stay.

Our sight of immigrants coming into Lydda, and our visit to the great new port rising at Ashdod, were matched by other stirring experiences.

For one thing, we visited and were inspired by Israel's three major institutions of higher learning: the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovot, the Technion, Israel's M.I.T., at Haifa, and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

For another, we received clear evidence that the spirit of pioneering in Eretz - that spirit which thrilled Jews the world over, a generation ago -- still burns brightly. Both sabra and newcomer share in this spirit in today's Israel.

Between Beersheba and the Dead Sea, in a vast, flinty, rock-strewn wilderness, we visited the new town of Arad, largely peopled by picked young men and women of Israel's sabra generation.

Below Beersheba, in the sandy stretches of the middle Negev, we visited Yerucham, a newcomers' development town. It is settled not by sabras, but by recent Jewish immigrants from Morocco, who are, in the words of former Prime Minister Ben-Gurion, "no less pioneers than any settlers in Israel."

And, even while we were in Israel, we heard the announcement of the setting up of two more new towns by Youth Aliyah graduates in the desolate, isolated Arava, the great, geological fault that runs from the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba. In another few years, we were told, there will be ten towns and a highway running through the Arava.

But our deepest insight into the pioneering spirit came from one who, in his way, has been Israel's greatest pioneer -- David Ben-Gurion, whom we visited in his desert outpost at Sde Boker. What he had to say on this subject and Israel's future, we note later.

Still on the side of impressive achievement was our visit to the Dead Sea Works at Sodom, where we heard from Major-General Mordecai Makleff, the manager of the

Works, and Chief of Staff of the Israel Defence Forces in 1953-54. He told us of the farsighted plans to increase the output of Israel's great chemical treasure trove, the Dead Sea, and we saw some of the construction intended to make this possible.

Accomplishments In Human Engineering

Meanwhile, we got a glimpse as well, into some of Israel's - and UJA's - accomplishments in human engineering when we visited a Malben home for the aged, at Natanya. Theodore Feder, the able Director General of Malben - the arm of the JDC in Israel - told us that the organization now assists nearly 60,000 aged, handicapped and chronically ill, newcomers. This it does through a remarkable program of institutional care and welfare help that bears comparison with any similar program in the world.

Still another such glimpse came when we visited ORT's special school at Natanya. This institution, which does not receive UJA funds, is teaching vocational and mechanical skills to specially selected trainees from Africa's emerging nations. But elsewhere in Israel, ORT is training some 20,000 immigrant and Israel youth, in the world's foremost vocational school system, using UJA funds derived from the JDC.

Negative Into Positive

In photography, a bright and shining positive does not exist without a dark and forbidding negative. Sometimes this is also the case in life.

At any rate, there is a dark, negative side to Israel today, and the 9th United Jewish Appeal Study Mission saw it as well as Israel's bright side.

Here are some of the names it goes by: Shderot...Yavne...Avivim...Kiryat Shmona...Ma'alot...

These are places which the average tourist almost never sees, and which if he does reach, he is unaware of what is happening in them.

These are immigrant development towns -- towns settled largely by newcomers

from Morocco, Algeria and Moslem areas, the places where the "Other Israel" lives.

These are some of the dark and blighted corners of Israel, communities where unemployment is high, where the total number of relief cases is correspondingly high, where educational opportunities beyond elementary school do not exist or are restricted for one reason or another, where available social service help is in short supply, and where, above all, housing conditions are at a strikingly unsatisfactory level.

These are places, in short, where for thousands of new immigrants the bright dream of a new life, the dream that brought them to Israel, has turned into something bleak and forbidding.

If the above conditions seem alarming, then the first thing that needs to be understood is that nobody in Israel wants them to be that way. What should be understood next is that given time, know-how and, above all the necessary funds, they can be corrected. The danger lies in not paying attention to the warning signals which exist in this work of immigrant absorption.

As the Treasurer of the Jewish Agency, Mr. Pincus, declared to us; "Social developments of a negative kind are like disease, are like cancer, which develops slowly, almost unseen and unfelt, until the explosive moment comes."

Immigration and Israel's Progress

Important for understanding Israel today is that much of the country's growth and progress can be traced directly to the fact of continuous immigration. Israel's 650,000 Jews in 1948 have grown to more than 2,000,000 in 1963. Of these, more than half are immigrants. As in the case of almost every country which suddenly has increased its population through immigration, Israel's immigrants have brought with them new needs, new skills, and new incentives to the expansion of commerce, business and many fields of economic and social development. These benefits of immigration are apparent everywhere.

But equally apparent is the simple fact that the pace of absorbing the newcomers has never kept up with that of immigration itself. Thus, two parallel phenomena related to immigration can be seen side-by-side throughout the country -- a vigorous, dynamic, forward movement -- and a second movement marked by social problems, stagnation and even retrogression.

Perhaps in another society the side-by-side existence of these two forces would not matter. Time might provide a suitable corrective. But in Israel they do matter, and matter very much. In this small Jewish state so surrounded by hostility, ever forced to keep alert and at full strength in every national fiber and muscle, any sign of national weakness, either present or future, spells enormous danger.

By far the greatest part of the more recent immigration to Israel has been from non-European countries. And since 1948, approximately 50 per cent of the more than one million immigrants who have come into the country is from non-European or non-Western countries.

As Israel has sought to house and give work to its more recent immigrants it has also attempted to disperse them in newly established towns and cities -- immigrant development towns -- whose erection was dictated by sound reasons of national planning.

But plans have a way of running ahead of realities. Some 21 development towns, and a number of new immigrant villages, have been created in recent years. Many of these were founded in Israel's northern areas; others in the country's southern regions -- both in need of people and development. The hope was that these towns would offer not just housing, but solid opportunities for local employment through the attraction of private industry and public enterprises.

In the instance of such a newcomer community as Ashdod -- with 9,000 people, and most eligible workers employed in constructing the new port, or working in

housing and local industries, these hopes for high employment have been realized. A similar pattern of high employment exists in Dimona, a thriving town of 6,000 southwest of Beersheba in the Eastern Negev.

But what of Shderot, an embittered development town of 5,000 in the Western Negev? What of Kiryat Shimona, a stagnant town of 18,000 which hopefully is to serve as the capital of the Northern Galilee? What of Ma'alot in the Western Galilee?

The Story Of Ma'alot

The following summary of the situation in Ma'alot, which we visited on Wednesday, October 23, more or less tells the story of all of Israel's depressed development towns.

Ma'alot's total population of 3,400 persons is made up of approximately 465 families and 70 singles. The average family size is 6.5 persons. Most of the inhabitants are from Spanish Morocco and Tangier, but others are from Tunisia and Algeria, with some from Rumania. The typical breadwinner's income in Ma'alot is IL 200 (\$66.00 a month -- this where families of 6.5 persons are the average!)

A recent survey in Ma'alot showed that of approximately 600 breadwinners, only 100 have regular employment. Some 260 get relief employment. The remaining are jobless. There are two small factories in Ma'alot -- and hopes that new industry will be coming into the community. But these are largely hopes.

Meanwhile new immigrants in Ma'alot, which is high in the Galilee hills, face the prospect of a cold winter (the water freezes in the pipes) without adequate blankets or clothing. A qualified health worker insists that there is a large degree of undernourishment in the community. There is certainly ample evidence that other social ills exist.

There is overcrowding (permanent housing for immigrants in Israel today averages about 350 sq. ft. for a family of six). The overcrowding automatically drives the children out on the streets. Youngsters in school have no place to study at home.

Young couples who would like to get married have difficulty in finding an apartment and are forced to remain with their parents (although Ma'alot newlyweds get priority on the apartment waiting lists). Finally, there is the fact that workers on relief employment take little pride in their work.

In short, the present looks grim and depressing for anyone who came to Ma'alot with the hope that Israel would provide him with a new chance and a new opportunity in life. So does the future. A skilled social worker estimated for us that better than half of the population of Ma'alot must be considered social cases. Tragically, this applies to the youth as well as the adults of the community.

What Israel's Leaders Said

All of what we saw in Ma'alot -- all of what we learned in Shderot - in Kiryat Shimona and in other communities -- was confirmed in his notable address of October 18 by Louis Pincus, the Jewish Agency Treasurer.

Similarly, Israel's problems of immigrant absorption were confirmed by the distinguished Chairman of the Jewish Agency, and former Prime Minister of Israel, Moshe Sharett in an address to our group, in Jerusalem, on the evening of October 25.

And finally they were confirmed by no less a person than Prime Minister Levi Eshkol himself, who spoke to us at a State dinner in Jerusalem, which marked the closing session of the Mission, October 28.

In his remarks, Mr. Pincus declared: "The backlog in housing is frightening." He added: "More than 20,000 persons are still in ma'abarot -- another 25,000 live in "asbestonim" while 30,000 families of five to eight persons (approximately 200,000 people) still live in small one to one and a half room apartments."

The Jewish Agency Treasurer told us that this "underhousing" of Israel's immigrants threatens Israel's future.

"The unsatisfactory housing situation", he declared, "carries far-reaching

implications for the country's mental and social health. Young immigrants have no place to do their homework. Young married couples continue to live with their parents and intensify the overcrowding. If these, and other social problems are not remedied, they will mar the basis of real democracy in the country."

Then the Jewish Agency Treasurer added: "Don't think that the one or one and a half room apartments are the size of American ones. The average is somewhere around 350 sq. ft. That is the size in which the family of five to eight persons has to live."

Additionally, Mr. Pincus noted, that there has been a serious rise in the number of new immigrants needing social aid. He added that the number requiring such aid has reached 23,000 families, or approximately 200,000 persons.

Finally, he noted - and stressed - that all these problems are apparent at a time when Israel faces still another year of peak immigration, one more expensive than previous immigrations.

The 1964 Immigration Opportunity

"In 1964 an opportunity is being thrust at our door to take in a great immigration of tremendous importance as a balance to the negative aspects of the immigration of the past few years," Mr. Pincus declared, "but it is an immigration more expensive than we have ever had in the past. . . more expensive because the organization and transportation is more expensive. . . We used to say that to take a Jewish family and bring them here costs us \$10,000 per family -- when you put such a family into an apartment and put it on its feet to find its own way. I am afraid, owing to increased costs, this will reach something like \$12,000 per family before the year 1964 is out."

"Lift Up Your Eyes"...Prime Minister Eshkol

Another who directed the attention of our Mission to Israel's great problems of immigrant absorption, was Israel's distinguished and inspiring Prime Minister, Levi Eshkol.

In the closing address to the Mission, he reminded us that as former Treasurer of the Jewish Agency, and later as Finance Minister of the State of Israel, he had worked closely with many of UJA's leadership on problems of immigrant integration. He recalled for us how he himself had had to set up the ma'abarot, and how later he had played a leading role in tearing them down.

"The apparent prosperity", he stated, "visible in our supermarkets, on the main streets of the large cities, and in the central part of Israel, which is less than half our area, should not mislead you to the economic situation. . . We can all derive satisfaction from this progress. But, my friends, I ask you to look about you -- to use your eyes not to see what has been done, but to see what has not. Lift up your eyes to the North and South, East and West. See for yourselves that over half our land is empty and desolate. . ."

The Prime Minister continued as follows:

"The tens of thousands who come to us each year arrive desolate as well -- lacking everything -- almost a reflection of the barren land. . . all too often broken in body and spirit. Some of you have seen this face to face at Shderot. Were it not for the children of the new Olim . . . my heart would be heavy indeed. But it is for them that we are prepared to endure, struggle and survive. The young ones must be brought up properly, have schools and education, with all the effort and investment involved in providing school buildings, facilities, teachers and equipment."

The Price Of Making History

But perhaps no man put the mixed picture of Israel's progress and problems in better perspective than Mr. Sharett, Chairman of The Jewish Agency.

In his address, one marked with deep insight, he declared: "The enterprise in which we are engaged is one of history-making. By our own deliberate choice it is the work of our hands. . . . If you make history, you can't make it overnight. History is a continuous process. And if you make it, it takes you time to do so -- days and sometimes years -- and every day you find yourself again and again on the spot. Every year you stand a new trial. If you have dared to change history. . . . to take hold of a people with a certain sociology, a certain mentality, and start transplanting them, you are daring to work a revolution. This means continuous effort. This means sacrifice."

The Process Of Change

Continuing in his analysis, The Jewish Agency Chairman had this to say about the business of building a Jewish state:

"Israel today is replete with social cases. How could it be otherwise? Despite the shortage of labor in certain branches of the economy, the country is full of people who cannot be adjusted to this kind of employment. They rank as unemployed, underemployed and, sometimes, unemployable. At a time when there is a crying need for workers in certain circles of economic life -- skilled, able-bodied workers who are capable of mastering new skills quickly -- we still have the unemployed who are undergoing hardships and depending on public funds. In this one country, we have these two conditions side by side. They must not be envisaged, however, as manifestations of a static, immutable situation. This is merely one stage in the process of change."

And then Mr. Sharett stressed how the transition to Israel had created new

ideas and new needs for Israel's recent newcomers:

"What happened to the Yemenite Jews? What happened to the Jews of Iraq? They've been transplanted from their countries of origins -- where their forefathers have lived for literally scores of generations -- to Israel. A transition such as this doesn't pass smoothly. Whole modes of life must be changed; new careers adopted. These people must accustom themselves to making a new kind of effort. As they develop new ideas, new needs spring up. They see before them a society on a much higher level of culture and civilization, a society that is strong and walks erect. Those whom they see are their own brothers and sisters, their own flesh and blood, and they ask of themselves, Why should we be inferior? And indeed, the oldtimers don't want them to be inferior. To the oldtimers of this historically beleaguered nation, these newcomers from Iraq, from Morocco, are reinforcements. They want them to grow stronger ... They want their boys and girls to have something to defend that is worthwhile, that is theirs."

Our Visit To Sde Boker

No picture of what we saw and learned in Israel would be complete without a note about our visit to a tiny outpost deep in the Negev, where we were granted a rare view of the Israel of the future. On Tuesday, October 22, the members of the Mission journeyed some twenty miles below Beersheba into the sandy -- but no longer entirely barren -- Negev.

As our buses pushed further and further into the wasteland, we came upon patches of land already planted to experimental forests, or given over to other experimental agricultural efforts. Bedouins were camped on the stony, sand-blown hills. But the discerning eye could see that Jewish science and pioneering were already probing the Negev to make it give up its secrets, so that some day large numbers of Jewish settlers could come and live here.

Then out of the forbidding landscape of mountain, rock and sand, there rose the Negev city of Yerucham, and then a little further on, the green oasis of Kibbutz Sde Boker.

Now we came to a collection of stone and concrete buildings specially created to withstand the desert daytime heat and nighttime cold, set on the edge of an enormous canyon. This was the Sde Boker Desert School, a place where Israel's youth comes to study and learn about living in the Negev.

Shortly, the man who is the guiding spirit of the school -- David Ben-Gurion, former Prime Minister of Israel -- came himself to tell us about this place and its significance.

Dressed in khaki shirt, sweater and pants, and looking every bit the Negev pioneer, Mr. Ben-Gurion unfolded for us a picture of the future of the great stretch of territory that lies between Beersheba and Eilat, and constitutes almost fifty per cent of Israel's land mass.

In ten years, he told us, he believed Israel would see cheap fresh water made from salt sea water through the use of atomic power -- fresh water enough to make the Negev bloom. And the Negev would bloom he assured us, provided two other ingredients were at hand: scientific know-how and human pioneers.

Mr. Ben-Gurion expressed the hope that the Sde Boker Desert School would become "an Oxford of the Negev" to which scientists, as well as students, would come, and study the ways and means both to cultivate the Negev and establish industry there.

"I am sure there are many things to be discovered here for Israel's benefit, and we will discover them only when scientists come to live and work among us", Mr. Ben-Gurion declared.

Two other things Mr. Ben-Gurion told us:

First, Israel is already seeking to raise the age level of compulsory education for children from fourteen years to sixteen years. This would mean that free educa-

tion would be extended for two years of high school, or vocational training, instead of ending after the eighth year for most pupils, as at present.

Second, the former Prime Minister noted that he did not know whether Israel could afford financially to undertake this extension of the compulsory educational level. But he stressed that it is vital to "close the gap" between the children of immigrants from the so-called Oriental countries and the children of Western, largely European, origin. It is vital he insisted, because, "Israel's greatest resource is trained brains."

We Hold A Caucus

On Sunday, October 27, after eight days crowded with significant and illuminating experiences, we of the Mission gathered in a caucus in Jerusalem, at the King David Hotel. Our purpose was to reconsider what it was we had seen, and to give it expression in a suitable recommendation as to what American Jews should undertake to do in 1964 through the United Jewish Appeal.

In a remarkable address, Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, UJA Executive Vice-Chairman summed up for us the story of Israel's progress and problems just related here.

Before us, he indicated, lay a challenge: While it can be said that the pace of immigrant absorption has fallen far short of the pace of immigration itself, it can be said with equal justice that the level of American Jewish giving to the United Jewish Appeal -- generous as it has been -- has in no way matched the challenge of absorption presented to it in recent years.

As matters stand, he brought out, the tiny community of Israel, with hardly more than 2,000,000 Jews, half of them immigrants themselves, is now bearing the brunt of receiving and absorbing the continuing immigration. For every dollar that American Jews contribute, the Israel taxpayer provides two. Yet the balance of wealth, of ability to meet the challenge, lies with American Jewry, and they cannot in any way

remain complacent about what has been done, or is being done.

In all conscience, it is clear, American Jews need to seek to establish new standards of generosity, and increased participation, in what remains the central and primary Jewish responsibility of our times -- the rescue and revival of a people.

The Inspiring Response of The Caucus

Now the individual members of the caucus proceeded to give a dramatic and inspiring demonstration of what this visit meant to each of them. Led by UJA General Chairman Joseph Meyerhoff, who told how moved he had been by what he had seen, and followed in similar vein by Max M. Fisher, UJA National Chairman, each member of the caucus rose and announced an increased gift for 1964.

The total increase came to a most substantial sum. As he made his gift practically every caucus member emphasized that he was giving an increase in order that American Jewry should understand by such action that the needs in Israel and other areas today urgently call for "over and above" giving. The announcements made in Jerusalem will be made known in due time in the hometown community campaigns of the various Mission members. But these gifts definitely constitute a solid beginning for renewed American Jewish participation on a higher level in the work of receiving and absorbing Israel's newcomers.

We Must Raise More In '64

It was with the thrills of the caucus session, as well as the thrills and shocks of our visit to Israel, still fresh in our memory, that we adopted the resolution which we now submit to the attention of the American Jewish community. (See page 25).

To American Jews we declared that it is a matter of utmost necessity and urgency that in 1964 they should once more dedicate themselves to obtaining the greatest

possible funds for the work of the Jewish Agency in Israel, and for the Joint Distribution Committee meeting the needs of Jews in 30 countries throughout the world, as well as UJA's other beneficiaries.

We particularly urged that the delegates to UJA's forthcoming Annual National Conference, "adopt as the goal, and resolve to raise, a substantially greater sum than sought in 1963".

For we of this historic 9th Annual United Jewish Appeal Study Mission agree with Prime Minister Levi Eshkol that "no moral power can absolve Jews in the free world of their responsibilities towards the Jewish people seeking refuge and returning home."

We agreed with him "there is no objective reason for the decline in UJA activity, individual or collective. The Jews who are yet to come, and Israel in their name, voice their silent but deafening cry. The tens of thousands of children of new immigrants call out for homes, for schools and for study facilities. . ."

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY
THE 9TH UNITED JEWISH APPEAL STUDY MISSION

WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE NINTH ANNUAL STUDY MISSION OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL, numbering 140 leaders of Jewish communities throughout the United States;

HAVING MADE AN INTENSIVE INQUIRY into what is being accomplished in Israel, Europe and in the Moslem lands with the funds contributed by American Jewry;

HAVING WITNESSED THE INSPIRING SIGHT of new immigrants reaching the shores of Israel;

HAVING SEEN AT CLOSE RANGE in Israel the vital tasks which remain to be done in order to absorb fully the new immigrants into the economic and social fabric of the country;

HAVE REACHED CERTAIN CONCLUSIONS which we want to share with our fellow Jews in the United States.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, we have been inspired by what Israel has achieved during the brief span of its fifteen years of statehood. In essence, what we saw in Israel was our fellow Jews, heretofore the cruel victims of tyranny and oppression, walking with heads erect, rearing their families in an atmosphere of dignity and freedom, and singularly dedicated to the task of building a nation which shows every promise of being a source of inspiration to Jews wherever they live and a light to the whole world.

AT THE SAME TIME WE FOUND AREAS OF NEED, involving many of our fellow Jews in Israel. These needs have persisted because, notwithstanding the large sums that have been contributed to the UJA, our funds have not kept pace with the even larger needs presented by the great cause we have espoused.

OUR STUDY HAS REVEALED TO US that in the forthcoming year the immigration into Israel will even exceed the large immigration of the current year. In addition, the needs in other parts of the world will be greater and more costly.

(more)

WE CANNOT -- WE DARE NOT -- SHIFT ANY MORE OF THE INCREASED COSTS to the people of Israel, already burdened with the tremendous cost of preserving their own security and having already assumed an ever increasing share of the cost of housing and absorbing the new immigrants.

WE MUST PROVIDE THE INCREASED FUNDS to help keep the life-line to Israel open.

WE MUST PROVIDE THE INCREASED FUNDS to give real meaning to the rescue of those who have not yet taken root in Israel.

WE MUST PROVIDE THE INCREASED FUNDS to enable the Joint Distribution Committee and the other agencies which derive their funds from the UJA to meet our obligations to our fellow Jews in need in other parts of the world.

WE MUST TREAT THESE INCREASED OBLIGATIONS not as increased burdens but as increased opportunities to advance the great mission of the redemption of our people, a mission to which our generation and, particularly, we the Jews of America, grateful for what we have, have heretofore applied ourselves with so much heart and so much soul.

HAVING REACHED THESE CONCLUSIONS, we recommend to the delegates to be assembled at the forthcoming Annual National Conference of the United Jewish Appeal, to be held in New York City on December 6-8, 1963, that they adopt as the goal, and resolve to raise, a substantially greater sum than sought in 1963.

WE RESOLVE that each of us, devoted to the welfare of those we help to bring to Israel, and vitally concerned with the welfare of our fellow Jews in other areas where they are in need, will give the forthcoming campaign that measure of support which is commensurate with the needs that must be met in 1964.

Jerusalem, October 27, 1963

Members of the 1963 UJA Study Mission

MRS. SIDNEY J. ALLEN
Detroit, Mich.

DR. & MRS. SEYMOUR ALPERT
Washington, D.C.

MR. & MRS. HENRY C. BERNSTEIN
New York, N.Y.

MR. & MRS. IRVING BERNSTEIN
New York, N.Y.

MR. & MRS. ALBERT M. BERSHAD
Philadelphia, Pa.

MR. & MRS. MAX J. BILLIG
New York, N.Y.

RABBI & MRS. ISADORE BRESLAU
Washington, D.C.

MR. & MRS. HERMAN COHEN
Baltimore, Md.

MR. & MRS. MORRIS COHEN
Kansas City, Mo.

MRS. ABRAHAM COOPER
Detroit, Mich.

MR. & MRS. JEROME COURTNEY
Tucson, Ariz.

MR. & MRS. NATHAN CRAMER
Los Angeles, Calif.

SAMUEL H. DAROFF
Philadelphia, Pa.

DR. & MRS. EDWARD A. DEVINS
Kansas City, Mo.

MR. & MRS. MELVIN DUBINSKY
St. Louis, Mo.

MR. & MRS. BENJAMIN DUHL
New York, N.Y.

MR. & MRS. JACOB FELDMAN
Dallas, Tex.

MRS. ISRAEL D. FINK
Minneapolis, Minn.

MR. & MRS. MAX FIRESTEIN
Los Angeles, Calif.

MR. & MRS. MAX M. FISHER
Detroit, Mich.

RABBI & MRS. HERBERT A. FRIEDMAN
New York, N.Y.

MR. & MRS. EDWARD GINSBERG
Cleveland, Ohio

HYMEN GOLDMAN
Washington, D.C.

MR. & MRS. ARTHUR GOODMAN
St. Paul, Minn.

MR. & MRS. LOUIS GRIBETZ
New York, N.Y.

SAMUEL HABER
Geneva, Switzerland

GOTTLIEB HAMMER
New York, N.Y.

MR. & MRS. HERMAN HANDMAKER
Louisville, Ky.

MR. & MRS. SIDNEY E. HARRIS
Newark, N.J.

MR. & MRS. HAROLD HASSENFELD
Nashville, Tenn.

PAUL HIMMELFARB
Washington, D.C.

MR. & MRS. MAURICE HOLMAN
Los Angeles, Calif.

MR. & MRS. JOSEPH KANTER
Cincinnati, Ohio

PAUL KAPELOW
New Orleans, La.

MR. & MRS. ARCHIE M. J. KAPLAN
Boston, Mass.

LABEL KATZ
New Orleans, La.

MR. & MRS. MEYER KIRSTEIN
Lynn, Mass.

MR. & MRS. I. H. KREKSTEIN
Philadelphia, Pa.

MOSES A. LEAVITT
New York, N.Y.

MR. & MRS. IRVING LEFKOW
Sioux City, Iowa

MR. & MRS. JACOB LEICHTMAN
New York, N.Y.

HEINZ LEVI
New York, N.Y.

RAPHAEL LEVY
New York, N.Y.

MR. & MRS. DAVID M. LITWIN
Newark, N.J.

MR. & MRS. JOSEPH M. MAZER
New York, N.Y.

MR. & MRS. JOSEPH MEYERHOFF
Baltimore, Md.

MR. & MRS. MANUEL MORRIS
Kansas City, Mo.

MR. & MRS. ALBERT PARKER
New York, N.Y.

MR. & MRS. JAMES L. PERMUTT
Birmingham, Ala.

THEODORE R. RACOOSIN
New York, N.Y.

MR. & MRS. I. BUDD ROCKOWER
Philadelphia, Pa.

MR. & MRS. CHARLES RUBENSTEIN
Hartford, Conn.

MR. & MRS. JULIUS RUBIN
Milwaukee, Wis.

MR. & MRS. MILTON B. SALOMON
New York, N.Y.

MR. & MRS. LAWRENCE SCHACHT
New York, N.Y.

MR. & MRS. WILLIAM SCHEFT
Boston, Mass.

MILTON SCHWARTZ
New York, N.Y.

MR. & MRS. IRVING T. SIEGEL
New York, N.Y.

MR. & MRS. THEODORE H. SILBERT
New York, N.Y.

MR. & MRS. HERBERT SINBERG
Johnstown, Pa.

MR. & MRS. ROGER SONNABEND
Boston, Mass.

MR. & MRS. ABRAHAM SRERE
Detroit, Mich.

MR. & MRS. LOUIS STEIN
Philadelphia, Pa.

DR. & MRS. DEWEY D. STONE
Boston, Mass.

MR. & MRS. PHILIP A. VOGELMAN
New York, N.Y.

MRS. HENRY WINEMAN
Detroit, Mich.