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## *Personal Letter*

From

RABBI HERBERT A. FRIEDMAN  
Executive Vice-Chairman, United Jewish Appeal

1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N. Y. 10019

PERSONAL - NOT FOR PUBLICATION

8 February 1966

Dear Friend,

Many people have asked me to write down the principal facts of the 1966 situation - the main points, as it were, of the presentation of needs. What is happening? Exactly what is the campaign story? Let me set down the five main points as I see them, although I am sure others might occur to you.

### I. Continued High Immigration

Some of our contributors appear to have come to the conclusion, during the middle of 1965, that there was no urgency in this area of need because immigration, which had been running at such a high rate over the past five years, had come to an end.

This erroneous impression had its source in the misinterpretation of speeches made in Israel during the course of last fall's election campaign and in the inaccurate reports of tourists upon their return to America. Unfortunately, too many American tourists never speak to new immigrants, contenting themselves with a surface view of an increasingly prosperous Israel.

The facts of the immigration picture are as follows: in 1966, 40,000 new arrivals are expected in Israel from Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. Mr. Louis Pincus, the newly elected Chairman of the Jewish Agency, said recently that the anticipated number was 11,000 family units. To be sure, this figure is slightly less than the 50,000 average of the past five years; but, for a country of two and a half million people, 40,000 is high immigration. From 1961 through 1965, the UJA helped bring 250,000 Jews into Israel. During the next five-year period, 1966-1970 inclusive, the estimated total will be 200,000.

Furthermore, in terms of money, the 200,000 of the next five years will cost more than the previous 250,000. The two primary sources of the 1966 immigration into Israel remain as last year - a certain country in Europe and another in Africa. As you know, the rate of flow and per capita costs are established unilaterally by certain authorities.

The trip that in 1963 cost \$210 per capita has been increased to \$370, and will go up. Many millions of dollars will be needed for the immigration from these two countries in 1966.

Immigration from Iran will undoubtedly increase this year because the 80,000 Jews of Iran are restless. In previous years, they were asked to wait, because the Jews of European and African countries were in greater trouble. Iranian Jews

now say: we have waited long enough.

There is still another reason why the UJA needs more funds for immigration in 1966. We estimate that twelve to thirteen thousand Jews will have to be moved by the United Hias Service in 1966, to countries of freedom, as compared with 9200 in 1965. One reason for this is the liberalized U.S. immigration law, which was passed at the last session of Congress. The stepped-up program of UHS (and in New York City that of NYANA) will have to be financed by the UJA.

We are, in fact, dealing with a figure of 53,000 Jews who will be migrating this year if the UJA is given the means to perform its historic task of rescue. In terms of cost, 1966 will exceed previous years by huge sums.

## II. Absorption - 21 Frontier Towns

The second major task of the UJA is the problem of the unabsorbed Jews of Israel who reside in the twenty-one towns.

Most people respond more readily to the slogan of life-saving, rescue or immigration than to any other. When we talk about absorption problems - under-employed fathers, underhoused families, undereducated teen-agers, dangers of social crisis and juvenile delinquency, the general retort is that "such problems are not unique to Israel." Let us therefore analyze the very serious situation of the twenty-one development towns in Israel.

It happens that there are, approximately, a quarter of a million underprivileged Jews, 80% of whom are Sephardic, coming from Asian or African countries, who reside in these twenty-one "frontier towns." Many of these towns did not exist ten years ago. In the beginning, European Jews, too, were sent to these new settlements in order to balance the population between Ashkenazim and Sephardim. But Israel is not a police state. A person is free to move and relocate his home and family. As a result, most of the European settlers, by virtue of hard work and utilization of skills, saved enough money to move to the larger cities in Israel where their growing children could enjoy all the benefits of education and culture, not available in a "frontier town."

Who remained? - In most instances it was the man with no skills, who lived from hand to mouth, because he must support a family of six, seven and even more children.

Consider for a moment what is happening in one of these new towns - Tiberias. We know Tiberias as a city of historic beauty, situated on the shores of the Sea of Galilee - a magnificent tourist spot. In reality, Tiberias is made up of two separate areas of settlement. The old established section is situated on the edge of the lake. It has a population of 5,000, composed mainly of old-timers who have been living there for many years, in some cases, centuries. They are the elite - hotel owners and managers, successful farmers, merchants and builders of the fishing industry. Up on the hill, there is the "other" Tiberias where live fifteen thousand people, all newcomers, mostly Sephardic. No less than 70% of the adults are illiterate in any language. In seeking employment, they qualify only for the poorly paying unskilled odd jobs available in lower Tiberias. Up on the hill, there are no schools, no playgrounds, no youth clubs. This is the perfect setting for an explosive social crisis.

The Sephardic Jews of Tiberias are beginning to murmur: Aren't we just as good

as the Jews down there? Aren't we too first class citizens of Israel? Didn't our boys fight in the Sinai campaign?

Fortunately, they are still in the "gripping stage." But who can say how long they will contain themselves before their bitterness and disenchantment is released in more violent forms of expression?

Similar situations elsewhere have led to social eruptions, which for Israel can be disastrous in terms of its moral image in the eyes of the world and in terms of impeding its economic and technological progress so vital to its survival as a democratic nation.

To be sure, money cannot solve all the problems in upper Tiberias and the twenty other "frontier towns." But with additional funds, UJA can help alleviate the crisis, ease some of the social tension and begin to close the gap between the absorbed and unabsorbed citizens of Israel.

### III. Security Problems

It is true that for several years Israel's military posture served as a successful deterrent against any Arab aggression. This was clearly evidenced in the war of nerves surrounding the water diversion project. When Israel refused to be intimidated by verbal threats, and proceeded to divert its share of water from the Jordan river, the Arab leaders candidly admitted that they were not ready yet, and could in effect do nothing but fulminate verbally. At the Arab summit meeting held in the fall of 1965, General Amer, Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Army said "I won't be ready for four years." Thus, the opening of the water project was a great victory for Israel, one made notable by the fact that it was a bloodless success. The policy of deterrent power maintaining the peace had clearly paid off.

Now a new situation is developing. The military balance of power may be in the process of shifting, once again, unfavorably against Israel, and the American public should not be lulled into any sense of complacency about Israel's permanent military superiority vis-a-vis the Arabs.

1. On 22 December 1965, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported:

"STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES \$400,000,000 SALE OF ARMS TO SAUDI ARABIA"

It was announced jointly in Washington and London that \$400,000,000 worth of arms would soon be delivered to Saudi Arabia by Great Britain and the United States. The British would supply 300 million dollars worth of supersonic jet fighter-bombers of the Lightning type and subsonic fighters of the Provost type. The United States was to supply 100 million dollars worth of Hawk ground-to-air missiles. The explanation offered by both governments was that this equipment would form part of Saudi Arabia's defensive network against any possible aggression.

2. A few days later, on 26 December 1965, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported:

"ISRAELI GENERAL WARNS OF STEPPED-UP MISSILE THREATS FROM EGYPT"

Egypt now has at least 10 surface-to-air missile launching bases similar to those set up by the Soviet Union in Viet Nam. This was disclosed here this weekend by

Israel's Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, who warned that Egypt was now also expected to be receiving newer and better aircraft, new T-55 tanks and modern naval equipment. Addressing a luncheon meeting of the Engineers Club here, Gen. Rabin said that Arab hostility toward Israel remains unabated, and Israel's basic security problems remain unchanged."

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3. On 29 December 1965, The New York Times reported:

"U.S. IS SUPPLYING TANKS FOR JORDAN  
50 to 100 Pattons Provided in Military Aid Program"

The climax of this tremendous military build-up in the Near East came with the announcement on 29 December that the U.S. was supplying Jordan with approximately 50 to 100 M-48 Patton tanks. The reason given was that this would help King Hussein retain control of his domain and prevent him from turning to the Soviet bloc for arms.

4. On 6 February 1966, The New York Times reported:

"U.S. REVEALS SALE OF PATTON TANKS TO ISRAELI ARMY

The United States disclosed today that it has been selling M-48 Patton tanks to Israel in an arms deal that it had once hoped to route through West Germany... A vague confirmation that the U.S. had now moved to fulfill the West German contract was distributed by the State Department today."

The State Department statement is appended to this letter. It is interesting to read the full text.

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The crisis has been further aggravated by the recent revelation that Russia has "wiped off" a 500 million dollar debt incurred by Nasser for previous military purchases. Presumably this will now enable the Egyptian leader, who has been Israel's most constant enemy, to begin ordering again.

The citizens of Israel have been contributing twice as much as we have to the immigrant absorption program. With arms purchases escalating, the citizens of Israel may not be able to continue increasing their contribution to the expenditures for the health, education, housing, social welfare and special programs for new immigrants. A greater part of this burden should and must rest on our shoulders. Through the UJA we helped bring 1,330,000 Jews to Israel; now we must finish the job of helping make them productive citizens of the new State.

#### IV. German Reparations

Seven million dollars in German reparations funds was lost during 1965 by the JDC and \$500,000 by the United Hias Service. What is not generally known is that as of March 31, 1966, all reparations payments to the Jewish Agency will also end. This will mean a loss of ten and a half million dollars which must be replaced if the programs of immigration and absorption are not to be sharply curtailed in 1966 and the years to come. The total loss to all organizations is 18 million dollars.

American Jewry contributed more to the campaign in 1965 than in 1964 because it

understood the crippling effect of the loss of JDC reparations money. There is all the more reason why we must increase our giving substantially in 1966, in view of the additional ten and a half million loss of reparations that the Jewish Agency faces as of April 1st of this year.

#### V. JDC - Global Needs

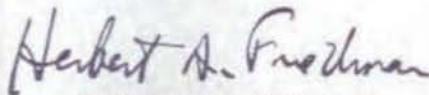
The 1965 campaign, though comparatively successful, did not produce sufficient funds to compensate the JDC for the loss described above. As a consequence, all JDC programs had to be reduced by about five million dollars. It is difficult to describe the agony of making decisions as to what should be cut out. Much human suffering will undoubtedly be caused. In Morocco for example, where there is a case load of fifteen thousand children, the JDC used to distribute clothing once a year consisting of a new T-Shirt, a pair of pants, a pair of shoes and various other items for each child. The cost was approximately \$150,000 per annum. A decision has now been made to reduce this clothing distribution to once in two years. This means that more than one Jewish child in Morocco will not even have shoes to wear in the months to come.

The JDC has been spending over five million dollars on its Relief-in-Transit program which has maintained a lifeline with thousands of Jews cut off in certain countries. Retrenchment in this area will mean that Jews, to whom the JDC is the sole link with the outside world, will be denied minimum subsistence, old age care, clothing, matzos, and other religious articles. Many of these Jews pray for the day when the gates might open so that Israel would become their home and haven. But if we lose contact now, they will be lost to us and the Jewish people forever. This must not come to pass! The UJA must do everything possible to help the JDC strengthen its vital programs among Jews in 29 countries of the world.

All forecasts indicate that 1966 will be a year of continued progress and expansion in all sectors of the American economy. With the needs as compelling as they are, and the economic conditions as favorable as they are, every effort should be made by every serious-minded contributor to give a maximum gift.

During the 27 years of its existence, the UJA has altered the course of modern Jewish history. At stake in the year 1966 is: the rescue of 53,000 Jews; the absorption of 250,000 into the economy of Israel; the plight of 400,000 all over the rest of the globe. To meet these needs, it is imperative that we increase our 1966 gifts to the UJA and the community campaign. I am confident that American Jewry will rise to the occasion and write another great chapter in the saga of its support for life and limb, heart and soul, of brother Jews everywhere.

Sincerely,



Herbert A. Friedman

TEXT OF STATEMENT ISSUED BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE

5 February 1966

There has been a recent spate of news stories relating to reported sales of military equipment by the United States to various countries in the Near East. The established United States policy has been to refrain from becoming a major supplier of arms in this area while retaining the option of helping the countries of the area meet their defense requirements through occasional, selective sales.

These exceptions to our general policy have been based on careful case-by-case examinations and a determination that such a sale would not be a destabilizing factor.

The United States has made over the years repeated quiet efforts to encourage limitations on arms buildups in the area. Until those bear fruit, however, the United States cannot be indifferent to the potentially destabilizing effect of massive Soviet sales of arms to the area.

Over the years, to meet modernization requirements, we have sold the Government of Israel various items of military equipment to help it meet its own defense and internal security requirements. These have included Patton tanks.

We and the British recently have agreed to provide an air defense system to Saudi Arabia, the United States component being Hawk missiles. Similarly, in 1962, we sold the Hawk missile to Israel to provide the basis for an air defense system.

We have also had a small military assistance program in Jordan under which we have furnished that country with modest amounts of military equipment and services, including Patton tanks.

It is our policy not to discuss the specifics of these types of transactions. Accordingly we are not in a position to go into the details of military material furnished individual countries, beyond stating that supplies to these countries has been in accordance with our established policy.

# Personal Letter

From

RABBI HERBERT A. FRIEDMAN  
Executive Vice-Chairman, United Jewish Appeal

1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N. Y. 10019

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

14 February 1966

Dear friend,

Since writing my last letter to you a few days ago, I have received important additional information which should be shared with you immediately. Therefore, I am sending this as an addendum to the previous letter, spelling out in detail the implications of Point IV, which referred to the loss of German reparations money.

Many of you have asked for a specific and detailed listing of the serious effects of this loss. I have queried the authorities of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, and have received this reply:

"Intensive discussions are now proceeding with various departments regarding cuts necessary because of the loss of reparations. The following economies are being studied though not yet finalized:

1. Reduction of initial cash assistance to newcomers from \$330 to \$260, average, per family.
2. Cutting by half, the number of loans available for constructive purposes (i.e. for going into business, and averaging \$1500).
3. Curtailing vocational retraining courses by at least half.
4. Reducing allocations to youth clubs in development towns by one-fifth.
5. Cutting high school scholarships for immigrant youth by one-fifth.
6. Reducing youth center trainees from 1500 to 1200.

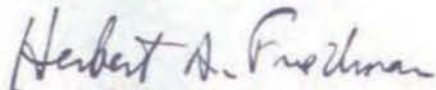


7. Reducing new youth aliyah intake from 3500 to 2000 during the year.
8. Cutting rehabilitation loans for welfare cases by half.
9. Cutting relief payments to welfare cases by half.
10. Reducing the placement of children from welfare families in day homes from 1500 to 750.
11. Cutting hospitalization of aged and chronic invalids from 16,000 to 8,000 for the year.
12. Delaying urgent repair work on old age homes.
13. Cancelling the issuance of blankets.
14. Stopping all allocations for immigrant housing, which will affect plans for improving substandard dwellings in development towns and agricultural settlements.
15. Cutting original plan to give final allocations this year to 111 agricultural settlements, which means further delay in repeatedly postponed consolidation scheme.

Please note that the cuts considered above involve hardships out of all proportion to the sums economized, aggravating even further the already inadequate absorption services. We see no alternative failing new sources of substantial revenue. Also note that the proposed cuts will offset reparations losses only partially."

It is clear from this analysis that much soul-searching is taking place in Jerusalem. The same soul-searching should engage each of us in America as we face our responsibilities toward this year's campaign.

Sincerely yours,



Herbert A. Friedman

# Personal Letter

From

RABBI HERBERT A. FRIEDMAN  
Executive Vice-Chairman, United Jewish Appeal

1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N. Y. 10019

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

24 May 1966

Dear friend,

After several years of full employment and labor shortages, especially in the area of skilled workers and craftsmen, and a continuous rise in take-home pay so that the individual's standard of living has gone steadily upward, there is today some measure of unemployment in Israel. This has become increasingly apparent in the last several months. Newspaper stories began appearing in March, I heard a great deal about the problem during my visit there in April, and there were the demonstrations in Ashdod and Dimona in May.

One could foresee, of course, that this unemployment trend might occur. Several large scale development projects came to an end at approximately the same time - the National Water Carrier installations comprising tunnels, pumps, canals, reservoirs; the Ashdod port; the Dead Sea works; other major projects in the Negev. These were all very sizeable programs and employed thousands of persons.

In addition, there was a clear line in the budget speech of the Minister of Finance indicating that the needs of stabilizing the economy, increasing efficiency and promoting exports would take precedence over other factors, including even the possibility of unemployment.

At any rate, even though anticipated, when the trend became noticeable, there was public reaction.

Therefore, in line with the policy I have maintained throughout the years of writing you these letters concerning significant events in Israel, I feel it is necessary to alert you to the whole problem by analyzing the background of what is occurring, outlining the steps being taken to effect remedies, and suggesting that you watch the events of the next six months very carefully.

If the matter is brought under control by the various counter-measures now being proposed - well and good. It will have been a temporary jog on the graph of economic growth - and will leave no lasting after-effect except the helpful one of achieving the Government's objectives that productivity per-man per-hour must increase, inflation must be constantly curbed and competitive pricing in the world market must be achieved or Israel's drive for exports will be thwarted.

On the other hand, if the unemployment should increase to the point where serious human hardship occurs, especially in the development towns, where the newest and economically weakest immigrants live, then this will confront us with a problem which we, in the months ahead, will not be able to ignore.

What has happened actually? In recent weeks a number of important enterprises have laid off substantial numbers of workers or announced their intention of doing so. Some of the outstanding industries and companies affected are: Kaiser-Ilin Industries, an automobile assembly plant; Auto-cars Company, which makes fiberglass bodies for vehicles; Leyland Motors, a truck assembly plant; Ilin tool works plant; Ce De chocolate factory; Kitan Dimona and Dimona Fibres, textile plants; other textile plants in Nazareth. Speaking in the Knesset on 9 May on this subject, the Minister of Labor said that unemployment was a serious cause of concern although there certainly should be no panic. He reported that about 30,000 workers were out of work as of that date. This is about 3.5% of the total labor force. The main problem, however, was that in some development towns the rate was up to 20%.

Obviously, that large figure of unemployed does not involve just skilled labor. By far the largest part of the figure is unskilled manual labor which had been employed in the building trades. Now that housing has pretty much caught up with the immigrant flow, and even surpassed it, so that there are several thousand completed flats ready and waiting for the new immigrants as they arrive, the frantic pace of residential building of the past few years has begun to slow down. The first workers affected by this were the large numbers of unskilled immigrants, most of them recent arrivals, who found work immediately in the construction industry as manual labor. Thus, as housing needs reached a temporary saturation point, the social tragedy occurred of the neediest being the first laid off.

In addition to the industrial lay-offs and the construction trade slack, there is a third factor. This relates to the problem of exports. Plants which manufacture for export are fighting an uphill struggle because they cannot compete with prices

on the world market. World prices have remained stable, while wages in Israel have gone up steadily and production per worker has remained fairly constant. Thus it becomes impossible to compete, export sales fall off and workers must be dismissed. This tendency has become noticeable in many of the export industries, and has the additional effect of making it impossible to close the trade gap and the balance of payments remains adverse.

Israel today is obviously going through an economic readjustment. The policy of the Government is clear - to increase productivity in order to enable Israeli products to be competitive; to restrain consumption in order to fight inflation; to hold back wage increases; to redeploy civil servants who are redundant and not really productive. It all adds up to a slowing down of the galloping growth of the past decade - and a pause to consolidate - and then to go forward again on a sounder basis. The unemployment must be understood within this broader economic framework.

People, however, have a tendency to react emotionally and the May Day demonstrations in Ashdod and Dimona were exactly such emotional outbursts. Breaking windows, throwing stones, fighting with the police, do not provide jobs. They merely express the resentment of the crowd with the Establishment - i.e. Government, Histadruth, Labor Exchange, police. Also the surprising vehemence of the mob action must be understood as an act of fear - fear that more and more workers would be laid off - fear that the standards to which they have grown accustomed in the past five years might be cut off. It is interesting to note that the bulk of the demonstrations in Ashdod were not really the poor but those who have been doing well for quite some time, who have begun to acquire goods on the installment plan, and who feared that smaller pay envelopes might cause the loss of these personal items on which they could not maintain payments.

What happens actually when a person loses his job? After a 13-day waiting period, during which he seeks other employment, the jobless person is offered state-supported relief work, at a minimum standard wage of \$4 per day, clearing rocks for farming, beautifying parks and roadways, planting trees, developing historical and archeological sites, working in public gardens, etc. The practice in many areas is to provide this public works employment by quotas. In the Negev, for instance, a family of two to four members rates 19 workdays a month; a family of five to seven is given 22 days of work per month; whilst a family of more than seven is given the full quota of 24 workdays per month. For a large family, as many of the immigrant families are, the full amount of \$100 per month is actually not sufficient for food, let alone other expenses. The Jewish Agency, with the help of UJA funds, supplements this sub-standard amount for large newcomer families.

Teenagers used the occasions of the public demonstrations to let off steam. Young men, discharged from the army, where they had learned vocational skills, and then returning to development towns where they could not find work, but became candidates for relief work, added their resentment. And clouding the whole picture is the constantly felt mood of discrimination, which does not exist in actual fact, but is present in the minds of many of the new immigrants.

The Government has announced a series of countermeasures: giving priority to plants in development towns when placing government orders; improving the profitability of such plants; providing incentives for plants located in the coastal area to relocate in development areas; relocating defense plants in outlying areas; giving long-term credit to plants relocating; allowing grants for the training of unskilled labor; and various other measures. Undoubtedly, these moves will help.

On the other hand, the announced policy of the Government is economic restraint, automation, greater efficiency - even if this results in temporary unemployment. In the long run, the economy will be much healthier. What will happen in the short run?

Again, let me say that the reason I have brought this to your attention is to alert you to the problem. The UJA cannot and is not expected to provide the means for industrial growth and development as such. But the UJA does have a stake in and responsibility for the human and social problems particularly among the newer immigrants whom we helped to bring to Israel. Our goal from the start has been greater than that of helping refugees to reach Israel. It has also been to help all these Jews from many different lands and of many levels of skill, become part of a model and viable society.

It is clear that the recent outbreaks were due in part to economic want and in a large measure to a general sense of frustration. The problem is at least partly a matter of social integration. To provide the means and instruments for such integration is certainly a rightful purpose for the UJA.

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Meanwhile, let me report to you on several favorable developments:

1. Further Progress in 1966 Campaign

After a successful 1965 campaign, which raised \$5 million more than the year before, it looks as though the 1966 campaign will forge ahead again by an additional several million. This does not completely compensate

for the loss of reparations funds, but still it is encouraging to see that a sense of increased responsibility does exist. The leadership group certainly has maintained a high degree of enthusiasm. The mood and morale of the community campaigners is quite good.

It is an interesting and perplexing fact that even though the campaigns of 1965 and 1966 were both good, the cash flow is somewhat disappointing. We are receiving the same flow this year as last year - no more. This may have something to do with the tight money market or the stock market or a variety of other factors. We can only hope it will improve, and must work toward that objective.

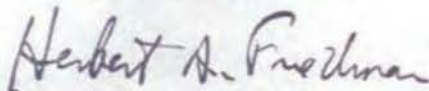
2. Community Cooperation

It is a good omen for the 1967 and future campaigns to witness the increasing spirit of cooperation which exists between the Welfare Funds and Federations and the UJA. On all levels and embracing a multitude of activities, this spirit results in improved campaigns from which everyone benefits. At this moment, there is joint planning on the forthcoming October overseas Study Mission; the annual UJA Conference in December; the various regional conferences in Chicago, Atlanta and San Francisco for early 1967; Young Leadership regional conferences; Women's Division area meetings; and many others. This whole development is very fruitful.

3. Young Leadership Program

This phenomenon is truly one of the most significant processes occurring in American Jewish Life. It is thrilling to witness the manner in which young business and professional men, of the highest personal and intellectual characteristics, are assuming roles of leadership in one community after another. It is good to know that the future is assured, for their dedication and commitment are matched only by their skills and energy. A National Cabinet includes 106 of these young men - who travel, solicit, speak, engage in self-study, read, and constantly deepen their loyalty to Judaism, the community, and the world-wide Jewish people.

Sincerely yours,



Herbert A. Friedman

## *Personal Letter*

From

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### I. Continued High Immigration

Some of our contributors appear to have come to the conclusion, during the middle of 1965, that there was no urgency in this area of need because immigration, which had been running at such a high rate over the past five years, had come to an end.

This erroneous impression had its source in the misinterpretation of speeches made in Israel during the course of last fall's election campaign and in the inaccurate reports of tourists upon their return to America. Unfortunately, too many American tourists never speak to new immigrants, contenting themselves with a surface view of an increasingly prosperous Israel.

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Furthermore, in terms of money, the 200,000 of the next five years will cost more than the previous 250,000. The two primary sources of the 1966 immigration into Israel remain as last year - a certain country in Europe and another in Africa. As you know, the rate of flow and per capita costs are established unilaterally by certain authorities.

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It happens that there are, approximately, a quarter of a million underprivileged Jews, 80% of whom are Sephardic, coming from Asian or African countries, who reside in these twenty-one "frontier towns." Many of these towns did not exist ten years ago. In the beginning, European Jews, too, were sent to these new settlements in order to balance the population between Ashkenazim and Sephardim. But Israel is not a police state. A person is free to move and relocate his home and family. As a result, most of the European settlers, by virtue of hard work and utilization of skills, saved enough money to move to the larger cities in Israel where their growing children could enjoy all the benefits of education and culture, not available in a "frontier town."

Who remained? - In most instances it was the man with no skills, who lived from hand to mouth, because he must support a family of six, seven and even more children.

Consider for a moment what is happening in one of these new towns - Tiberias. We know Tiberias as a city of historic beauty, situated on the shores of the Sea of Galilee - a magnificent tourist spot. In reality, Tiberias is made up of two separate areas of settlement. The old established section is situated on the edge of the lake. It has a population of 5,000, composed mainly of old-timers who have been living there for many years, in some cases, centuries. They are the elite - hotel owners and managers, successful farmers, merchants and builders of the fishing industry. Up on the hill, there is the "other" Tiberias where live fifteen thousand people, all newcomers, mostly Sephardic. No less than 70% of the adults are illiterate in any language. In seeking employment, they qualify only for the poorly paying unskilled odd jobs available in lower Tiberias. Up on the hill, there are no schools, no playgrounds, no youth clubs. This is the perfect setting for an explosive social crisis.

The Sephardic Jews of Tiberias are beginning to murmur: Aren't we just as good