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University Hillel student tour to Israel. 1969.

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## MEMORANDUM

*Date* September 23, 1969

*To* Mr. Herbert A. Friedman

*From* Charles Davidson

*Subject*

I have met with Rabbi Benjamin Kahn on the proposed "Israel Seminar" to be held during the coming Christmas vacation. The project is spelled out in detail on the attached pages. Briefly, they want to bring seventy student leaders to Israel for an intensive 10 day study program. The Government of Israel is prepared to pay for their entire stay and to arrange a program and itinerary. Funds amounting to \$21,000 are needed for transportation. Hillel would like us to assume this cost.

The project is a good idea but I have several questions:

1. Rabbi Kahn feels that contacts, screening and all administrative tasks can be accomplished by December 15. On the basis of my experience this past summer I have my doubts.
2. You may recall the scholarship fund I spoke of this past summer to bring heads of student government on our own mission. You might want to consider this before funding other college programs.



# B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL FOUNDATIONS

Devoted to Religious, Cultural and Counseling Activities among Jewish Students at Colleges and Universities

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SPECIAL DELIVERY

September 10, 1969

Rabbi Herbert Friedman  
United Jewish Appeal  
1290 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10019

Dear Herb:

First, on a personal note: congratulations on Danny's election to the Hillel Commission. I got to know him at the Summer Institute. He is a splendid boy of whom you have every reason to be proud. I was impressed by his menschlichkeit and his mature wisdom. He will make a wonderful contribution in the Commission deliberations.

I sent you a letter, a copy of which is enclosed, on August 6. Now that you are back from Israel I hope that you have had a chance to explore the proposal I made, and that you may be in a position to respond affirmatively to it.

We are all ready to go with the program, with one change. We have reduced the number of students whom we want to send to Israel this December from 100 to 70, thus necessitating a travel subsidy of \$21,000, rather than the \$30,000 specified in the letter. I do hope that you will find this proposal as exciting as we do and that you will lead the UJA into a partnership relationship with us in its sponsorship.

My best wishes to you and your family in the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Benjamin M. Kahn

BMK/lts--encl.

P. S. Because time is of the essence I shall try to call you on September 15 about this, and hope that I can reach you in your office.





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1640 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036

Executive 3-5284

<b>RECEIVED</b>	
AUG 8 1969	
NOTED BY	REFER TO
DATE	DATE
	<p><i>Handwritten initials: HAT, JB, CJD</i></p>
ANSWERED	

National Director  
RABBI BENJAMIN M. KAHN

DR. ALFRED JOSPE  
Director, Program  
and Resources  
RABBI OSCAR GRONER  
Asst. National Director  
SAUL GOLDBERG  
Executive Assistant  
MRS. YETTA NASH  
Financial Assistant

August 6, 1969

Mr. Herbert Friedman  
United Jewish Appeal  
1290 Ave of Americas  
New York, N. Y. 10019

Dear Herb:

I want to share with you a very interesting development in our efforts to combat Arab propaganda on the university campus, and to invite the UJA to consider a participatory relationship to this program in conjunction with the Hillel Foundations.

You know so well of the rising Arab propaganda on the campuses of the country. It is increasingly vicious and anti-Semitic. Every Arab student is a trained propagandist; El Fatah is raising money on campuses openly and blatantly. There are rumors that non-Jews are being solicited to join Arab guerrilla forces; publications and posters are being circulated that are reminiscent of Hitler Germany.

Up to this time, efforts to combat Arab propaganda have been sporadic and disorganized. Adequate materials have not been produced nor have our students and faculty been sufficiently capable or prepared to deal with a situation which is rapidly approaching crisis stage. Hillel has almost alone done what it could on the campus, but it is far from enough.

Happily, Joe Meyerhoff has made himself responsible for providing the Hillel Foundations with \$50,000 a year for the next two years to combat Arab propaganda on the university campus. This we intend to do in a variety of ways, which I needn't elaborate upon at this time. Rabbi Samuel Fishman is coming to our National Office this September to coordinate and supervise the program. It will not simply be defensive, but will have positive aspects of presenting Israel to the American academic community, in ways that will create a climate favorable to Israel, that would in itself be a bulwark of resistance against insidious Arab attacks.

One of the things we want to do is to prepare a corps of students, perhaps also faculty, who will be able to deal with propaganda out of knowledge as well as conviction, who will coordinate these activities on their campus, and who will be centers of Israel information. They will know what to say and how to say it. What we would like to do is to select 100 such students from key campuses in the nation and bring them to Israel for two weeks during the Christmas holidays for training and orientation. They would be mostly Jews, but we might also want to include some non-Jews as well: editor of a college newspaper, head of student government, for example.



When I was in Israel a few weeks ago, I met with Israeli officials and have the assurance of Mordecai Bar-On that the expenses of these students in Israel would be in large measure covered by the Israeli government through his department.

The program during this fortnight would be jointly planned by our staff and his. Students would be taken to the Golan Heights, Gaza Strip, West Bank, Sinai, etc., so that when they stand up to refute an Arab charge, they can say that they were there. They will meet with government officials of top rank and will have seminars on the history of Zionism and of Israel to be able to refute, for example, claims of unbroken Arab occupation of the land. And so on ...


The main expense for which we need funds is the travel costs for these 70 to 100 students from points in the U. S. to Israel and return. The funds which Joe Meyerhoff is guaranteeing may be used only on the campuses proper. I am, therefore, turning to you to ask whether the UJA might not want to become co-sponsors with Hillel (perhaps silent partners) in making the project possible by provision of the funds to subsidize travel.

I would not make this suggestion were I not so aware of your personal concern and that of the UJA leadership with the issues of Arab propaganda and with the need to develop from among our young people future leaders for the Jewish community. It appears to me that the project I have described would help fulfill in part both of these objectives, and I therefore venture to suggest your sharing in making it possible.


Please let me hear from you at your earliest convenience. If the project is to be put into effect for December, time is of the essence.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

  
Rabbi Benjamin M. Kahn  
National Director

BMK/p

 Joseph Meyerhoff  
Prof. Marver Bernstein  
Max Fisher  
Dr. William A. Wexler  
Rabbi Jay Kaufman



DECEMBER 1969 HILLEL STUDENT TOUR TO ISRAEL

- I. The Hillel Foundations received a \$100,000 grant for a two-year program to combat Arab propaganda on American campuses. The approach is not to be simply a defensive one in which charges by Arabs or Arab activists are to be counteracted, but additionally it is the development of an intensive and comprehensive program for the affirmative presentation of Israel and its concerns in such a light as to engender mass support within the academic community of both faculty and students.

Rabbi Samuel Fishman will be responsible for this program in the National Office as Director of the Department of Israel and Community Affairs. A comprehensive program in this entire area is being developed in consultation with the leaders of the Jewish community, organizations and agencies already involved in combatting Arab propaganda, ~~by~~ faculty (for example, American Professors for Peace in the Middle East), students and staff.

- II. A project has been developed as one of the first steps in this program whereby 70 to 100 (2 to 3 bus loads) of students will be taken to Israel during the Christmas holidays in December 1969. These students would receive special training, orientation and exposure in Israel that would qualify them upon their return to their respective campuses to serve as coordinators of the Israel program and leaders in the efforts to counteract Arab propaganda.

- III. The selection process of these students is presently being studied. The following are some of the procedures already in discussion:

A team of psychologists interested in Israel and in the issue will be invited to prepare application blanks that students who wish to apply for the program will fill out. On each campus a screening committee will be established, consisting primarily of faculty members, who will interview each applicant and recommend one or two to a national committee which will, in turn, make final selections. The students will be selected not on the basis of their activity in the Hillel Foundation, but in terms of their capacity and potentiality to organize and lead other students upon their return. They may include editors of newspapers, heads of student government, who are in the centers of opinion making on the campus. The December 1969 group will not, it is believed, include within it non-Jewish students or New Left leaders, reserving these groups for later attention.

Before any students are selected, a study will be made of the campuses of the nation, to ascertain which ones have the most serious problems of Arab propaganda. These schools will have priority in the designation of students to participate in the program.

- IV. The conception of the program in Israel is somewhat as follows: The duration will be either 10 days or two weeks, depending upon the financial resources to be made available. During this period of time the students will not be on a conventional tour. They will be directly exposed to "problem areas" such as the Old City of Jerusalem, Golan Heights, Gaza Strip, West Bank, so that they can report personal experience with these so-called



"occupied areas." They will meet with Arabs, and be able to report on these contacts such as the Moslem Council of Jerusalem, Arab students at the universities, the Arab farmers on the West Bank. They will meet with government and university experts in Arab-Jewish affairs, not for lectures but for intensive seminar-discussions of the issues on which they should be informed. (Parenthetically, it should be noted that the students will have to undertake a reading program on Israel, even before departure in December.)

They will also be exposed to the Jewish-Arab program of Dr. Jack Cohen, at the Hebrew University and Haifa Technion, visiting the Arab villages in which the program is conducted. It is possible that the entire group will be broken down into smaller groups, which will permit freer discussion and more intensive education.

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In view of the fact that the programs on the campus will be defensive but positive, the students will also be given opportunities to learn about Israel's accomplishments in the field of immigration, agriculture and acculturation, ~~xx~~ for example, and to achieve a knowledge of Israel's cultural and educational progress, as well as its problems of living in a fish bowl surrounded by millions of hostile ~~nations~~.

structure

The ~~xxxxxx~~ of the program will be planned jointly by the Hillel staff, students, faculty at this end, and representatives of the Israel government and Jewish Agency at the Israel end.

- V. We have assurance that the costs of the program in Israel will be covered by the Jewish agency and the Israel government. Mordecai Bar-On has guaranteed this at a meeting which Rabbi Fishman, Dr. Cohen and I had with him in Israel. The head of the Foreign Office in Jerusalem has also offered to be of help.

With the costs of the program in Israel already guaranteed, we are seeking now funds for the transportation of the students from the United States to Israel. A 10-day, 9-night trip would cost \$300 per student; \$21,000 for 70 students; \$30,000 for 100 students. Were the trip to extend for 14 days, which is preferable, the cost would be increased respectively to approximately \$25,000 and \$37,000. This is exclusive of the travel costs within the United States, which in the interest of equity should be pooled and divided among all student participants on an equal basis, as personal responsibility. This is exclusive also of all administrative costs of the program, including staff, program, planning, material preparations, etc., which would be covered by the National Office of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations.

- VI. Upon their return to the United States, these students, whose own knowledge of the history of Israel, especially in the last 20 years, should be intensive, and whose conviction of the rightness of Israel's cause should be deepened, will organize groups of students on their respective campuses on many levels: a group, for example, that will be prepared to rebut the attacks of Arab students, notably El Fatah, now increasingly active on the campuses; students who will conduct study groups on Israel. Other students who will organize programs for the campus on Israel's culture, art, music, drama, etc.; students who will become an activist group to influence American policy, for example, through letter writing programs, protest programs, etc;

When the students come back from Israel they should also be available for campuses which did not send students to Israel, and should also be available to speak on Israel before such groups on the campus as the political science groups, fraternities, sororities, etc., as well as before meetings of agencies and organizations within the larger Jewish community.

September 17, 1969





Irving Bernstein

To HAF

Bru Kahn wishes

You luck on Monday

+ appreciates your

support -



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cc: aH, MMF





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