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University Study Mission. Student evaluations. 1968-1969.

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Dear Sam,

I am sorry that I have not replied sooner to your letter. The past month has been most hectic and I had kept putting off writing this letter. My family has moved and I have transferred colleges. Between moving and adjusting to school work, I have been kept busy. My new address is:

851 ROBERT E. LEE BLVD
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70124

I am now attending Louisiana State University in New Orleans. I will be living at home this year.

I want to thank you again, Sam, for all you have done for us on the trip. Especially what you have done for Myron and I with all the special problems we had.

Enclosed is my evaluation of

the study mission.

Sincerely,
Barry Katz



Barry Katz

Evaluation

By going on the mission I have come to realize, that the Jewish people throughout the world are not as affluent as the Jews in America. By viewing first hand the poverty and problems of the Jews in Europe and Israel, I have realized how fortunate we are.

What perhaps interested me the most was that the trip dealt with Jewish interest. It was not just another sightseeing trip looking at material and historic objects only. We saw what the average sightseer does not see. We saw the economic, political and social conditions of Jewish people and their environments in Europe and Israel.

On the whole, I felt that the trip was planned and conducted well. I especially liked the idea of seeing Europe first and studying the conditions that led to the formation of Israel.

Learning about the Jewish conditions in the European countries has made me aware of the problems of Europe's Jewish communities.

In some cities, I felt we could have spent a shorter time and still have learned what we were seeking. Eilat and Tel Aviv are good examples of where we could have shortened the visit. We could have possibly used the extra days in Europe.

We could not take full advantage of our time in some cities because the locations of our hotels were far from the center of the city. Examples of this were in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Also we could have had better

accommodations in such places as London and Eilat.

I would favor girls being included on future missions only if the size of the total group would not increase. I felt that the thirty people on our mission was a good amount. With more people, I believe, the group could not have maneuvered as well as it did.

Now that I look back on the trip, I realize how privileged I was to participate in this mission. In just two months, the mission has made me aware of the heritage and problems of our brothers. I would definitely recommend a future mission to an interested person.

Sincerely,
Barry Katz

~~IS~~
~~HAF~~

TO: Irving Bernstein, Charles Davidson
FROM: Norman Bensley
RE: 1968 University Study Mission

It is hoped that this belated memo can still be of some use. My memory of the experience, I can assure you however, is still vivid. Either the bitterness or the enthusiasm burned very deep.

I suppose no evaluation of the "success" of this mission, as with the preceding ^{student}missions, can be known for a few years until the UJA goes to call on that new generation of committed Jews. I ~~would~~ say, though, that, as on my mission with the JDC 2 summers ago, the almost immediate and continual interest and enthusiasm displayed by members of the group is most encouraging. The roots are evidently taking hold, to coin a phrase.

All that will be attempted here, then, is a brief critique of the program itself.

For a starter, I would say there should be more stops and time in Europe. The 1967 group, remember, was to go to Morocco and Poland as well as to France. More Europe would sustain the exciting early pace for a longer period, significantly enlarge understanding of the European operation, especially if Marseille and Bucharest could be added, and solve the greatest problem (I think) of the Israel time--excessive length.

As additions in Europe I would suggest the following: Marseille (originally included in the 1968 plan)--this has the advantages of ^{being a}fascinating city, ^{the site of a}history of great Jewish transmigration ~~x~~ and continuing transmigration, the prototype ^{of Jewish}community development and absorption, Marseille also has Sam Castro--tops on the European circuit. Rumania, I understand, is under consideration, so I need not comment. Geneva-- if the stop is to be kept, at least an additional day should be allowed for a sidetrip to the Alps or other sightseeing. Vienna--this was a substitute stop for both missions. It should not be dropped, since it remains an important transmigration center and also offers Mauthausen, apparently the most authentically maintained camp in Western Europe, and Eisenstadt, whose Moritz Gabriel made a lasting impression. As an added attraction in Vienna, the meeting with Simon Wisenthal could be repeated.

~~As~~ deletions in Europe I would suggest the following with reservation: Berlin is useless without Herb. One short day touring the east and west is enough sightseeing, and ^{neither}the meetings with community leaders and students nor the excitement of being in this critical city are enough to merit the stop without Herb's story.

Geneva--this stop boiled down to a highly effective 2½ hour session in the JDC office, including the HIAS briefing. More would have been unbearable, e.g. see report on the 1967 stop. Even the afternoon at ORT missed the mark. In the two missions I've been on, ORT, I'm afraid, is best remembered for its fine-looking empty classrooms. There has to be some meaningful/^{way} to present ORT--perhaps in the context of education in Israel (?) Geneva is beautiful, however, and if there is time, it should not be dropped. In fact, I'm not sure there could be a substitute for the very useful session in the JDC office. A briefing somewhere else at the end of the stay in Europe by someone from the JDC office sounds weakx but is a possibility.

As for Israel.... Here is a pre-packaged, unbeatable item. No one's impressions or memories could be unfavorable. Still, I'm not sure there is a worse way to present Israel than through an intensive, unrelenting 5-week tour. Often-repeated problems come immediately to mind: a 3-day stay at a kibbutz guest house is no exposure to kibbutz life; fill-in time in Tel Aviv and Eilat without program hung heavy and was literally destructive of group morale; a full and good program of sightseeing and lectures in and around Jerusalem had to be drastically cut--and remaining events were sparsely attended--because this came at the end of four fatiguing weeks on the road. In addition to being overlong, the tour seemed to lack coherent structure, though the daily activities were planned with an eye towards certain themes. One of our preliminary itineraries included headings set adjacent to a day's program to indicate the theme to be covered, e.g., defense, occupied territories, settlements, immigration, absorption, etc. The lack of cohesiveness was, it thus seems, definitely a function of our being constantly on the move for so long.

It was suggested by one mission member that in the future we operate from some home base, holding whatever seminars and lectures seemed appropriate there at the beginning and taking trips from there. A first stop in Jerusalem with such a program would seem to be the answer. From there, 1-1½ week excursions to the north and then the south should be sufficient. The pedagogical value of presenting the above themes in some meaningful order could be more carefully controlled, especially if the mission leader and not the guide took responsibility for explaining the significance of each day's activities. For example, the northern tour could still commence in Haifa, a continuation of the story of aliya first heard in Europe, then proceed to some settlements, to the border areas, etc. Whatever special entrees a UJA group is entitled to could still be taken advantage of. History and geography can be fascinating but should be presented in lectures at the beginning or as preliminary to

*to those who have not been there before

visits to a few selected important places. Archaeology in heavy and repeated doses can also become oppressive. One idea might be to get an authority, perhaps someone from the Hebrew University, to accompany the group one day to a bona-fide active dig. At all costs, extended, on-the-spot explanations should be limited to only the most important sites, e.g. Massada and perhaps Avdat or Hatzor, which I understand may be active now. Finally, two themes that were not touched but often asked about were the Arab problem or treatment domestically and religion. These should receive some formal treatment. (One correction: Herb did discuss religion in response to a question at one of our informal meetings with him)

As a final note to Israel, I remember that two years ago with the JDC group we literally raced from Tel Aviv to Haifa, through the north and to Jerusalem within a week's time, still managing to give fair treatment to the "themes." The pace was terrific, and there was no letdown in morale. The lesson would seem to be that what detail may be sacrificed by compressing the tour is more than compensated for by the maintenance of a peak of enthusiasm so necessary to make mission members and leaders very happy.

A few miscellaneous points remain. The question of discipline was with us from the third night in Vienna when the group went to Grinzing. The real difficulty came not over occasional "cutting-up" but in cutting in the program. A bad tone was set by the understanding early in Israel that there would be no "cuts in the course." Inevitably, not everyone will be interested in everything, and, given the fact that some of the recruiting is done, ineffect, among parents and not the students themselves, some will be interested in nothing, at least for a time. The only observation here is that the rule should be flexibility and understanding, for, judging by attitudes at the end, everyone was reached at one time or other. To demand attendance at everything seems to challenge the delinquent elements to use greater ingenuity and almost certainly depresses the more serious majority.

Planned social events did not always work out, to be generous about it. All in the group were quite capable of pursuing their own diverse pleasures. Structured discussions or informal meetings with students in other countries can be very worthwhile, but there is a problem in Europe, where stops are very brief, of insuring that these occasions are properly set up. Beware especially of Munich. All in all, our efforts as social directors were not too well appreciated this time around.

Finally, most in the group welcomed any chance we had to get together for informal discussions. We had few such sessions. The leader here has a great opportunity as teacher and also as peer in a continual dialogue with serious and eager students.

HAF/1B

Steve Seiden

54 Oxford Drive, Tenafly, New Jersey

RECEIVED			
JAN 27 1969			
NOTED BY	REFER TO	DATE	DATE
	SHA		
ANSWERED			

Sam Abramson
United Jewish Appeal
1290 Ave of Americas
New York, New York 10019

Dear Sam,

cc Davidson
HAF-1B

I am really sorry that it took so long for you to get my report about the mission last summer. This semester was like hell. I hope it can be of some help to you or Charles Davidson for next years trip.

②
1/27

I have been trying to stay informed on the current events in Israel, but it is difficult. Could you suggest a good news letter that I might get regularly which would keep me informed. Last night I heard Rabbin speak at the Englewood Center, and I am planning to attend the UJA-Hillel Student Leadership Institute if the meetings seem worthwhile, and it does't mean missing any important classes. Enclosed you will find a copy of an article which I wrote for my temple paper, I though you might find it of interest. You can see that I am still maintaining my interest in the health and welfare of Israel. I must thank you for instilling alot of this feeling for Israel. You did a great job.

I hope I will be seeing you in the future. Best Wishes for a good year.

Sincerely yours,

I feel that I was different from many of the other participants on the University Study Mission of 1968 because I had previously been to Israel twice, and I had already dedicated part of my life to the preservation and aid of Israel. I viewed this trip from the beginning as not a vacation, but a learning experience, and I set out to learn all that I could. This trip did accomplish most of its objectives. So that next year's trip will be even better than this past year's, I will point out the exceptionally good and very poor parts of our trip.

Everything in Vienna was good. Meeting the immigrants, the briefing by Moshe Haskel, Zvi Garcy, and the trip to Mauthausen highlighted our stay in Vienna.

In Germany all of the briefings at the Jewish Community Center were a waste of time; most people seem to agree with me. The visit to East Berlin Synagogue and the briefings and tours (Hitler's Rise and Dachau) by Herb Friedman in Munich made the stay in Germany very educational.

The shortness of our stay in Geneva was a big mistake. A full day could have been spent at JDC's headquarters without anyone becoming bored. This briefing was one of the most informative on the trip. More free time was needed in Geneva so everyone could see the city- this could have been accomplished by cutting the tour to ORT to one hour. This concludes my comments on the European portion of our trip.

In Israel almost everything was excellent, so I will only point out the poor portions, and the parts that I found exceptionally excellent. We spent too much time on the Aliyah Bet story, and this extra time could have been spent at Technion and Haifa University

Our stay in Safed should have been shorter because there is nothing to do at night. Working on a kibbutz is good if we could work with the kibbutzniks and not just ourselves. If this cannot be arranged then the stay on a kibbutz should be eliminated. The detailed trip of the Golan Heights was one of the highlights of the trip. We could have used more time on this portion. Everyone realized the problem of living on the border when we visited Kfar Ruppin. The insight that was gained by seeing the shelters, the guards on the border, and talking to the people cannot be expressed in words. Kfar Ruppin or another settlement on the border should be visited, if possible more than one. The boat ride across Lake Tiberius was a complete waste of time, if it was intended for relaxation, free time would have been preferable. As has been previously discussed, the tour of Nazareth must be changed or eliminated. The meeting with Leon Fine, or another American that has been living in Israel for a number of years should be scheduled. Leon Fine was able to answer a number of questions that were in my mind. Our trip through Sinai was good; it helped to better understand the problems of the occupation. It really would have been good if we could have gone to the Suez Canal. The most uncomfortable part of the trip was the stay in Elate. The stay should have been cut down to one day, the hotel should be air-conditioned. Masada was the second most impressive portion of the trip. I think that it would have been improved by arriving earlier and leaving by the Snake Path. We needed all the time that we had there and possibly more. The most impressive part of the trip was Jerusalem. Most people

I think would have liked a better tour of the Old City. The meetings with Teddy Kollect and Rabbi Chinitz were complete wastes. This summarizes the trip as it was last year.

The wrong books were given out before the trip, more general books about Israel would be better. Very few parts of the tour should be required, because it creates too much resentment. I would have liked to have been briefed by someone working for Israel Bonds so that I would have better understood what they are doing. One major change is needed on this trip. In Israel we should have spent some time with relatives or an Israeli family. It is very hard to identify with the country, but easier to identify with the people. This I think was the main purpose of the trip.

The trip generally was a success, but now a follow-up is needed. We have to be kept informed on the current events in Israel, I hope UJA will accept this challenge as well as she did in the original mission. Good luck in future missions, and if you need any help I will be more than willing to do what I can.

The University Study Mission

This past summer, the United Jewish Appeal, for the second year, sponsored a University Study Mission to parts of Europe and Israel. Twenty-seven college students from all over the United States participated, including myself. The purpose of this mission was to study immigration into Israel, past history of the Jews, with emphasis on the rise and fall of Hitler and most importantly, to understand Israel in its entirety.

We started in Vienna by meeting a train with some Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe. The Joint Distribution Committee (Joint) met these people. Joint meets every train coming from Eastern Europe, never knowing when refugees will be aboard. The refugees then stay at a Joint camp for a week, while UHIAS and UIA work on arrangements for settling these people in Israel, or sometimes in other countries.

We then started the historical part of our trip by seeing Mauthausen, a concentration camp near Vienna. This concentration camp was left in almost the same condition as when it was liberated — so that we will always REMEMBER. We then went to West and East Berlin and to Munich, where we saw the places that played a part in Hitler's rise to power; also his pride and joy, Dachau, and Berchtesgaden.

In Geneva, at the headquarters of UHIAS and Joint, we were briefed on their activities and the status of Jews around the world.

Finally, after two and a half weeks in Europe, we reach Israel. We had many problems to study: security, water, Arabs, and others. We toured Israel thoroughly, while studying these problems, and while meeting with officials of the government.

In order to learn about the security problem first hand, we traveled on most of the border roads, which at many places were closer than half a meter from the border. We visited many settlements on the borders, such as Kfar Ruppin, a kibbutz on the Jordanian border. We discussed the Kibbutznick the problems and adjustments that they have had to make since they are being shelled several nights a week by the Jordanians. The children sleep in bomb shelters while the cement roofs on their houses are being completed. No one is allowed out to the fields, which are on the border, without soldiers going along as protectors. We were allowed to go into the trenches on the border where the soldiers pointed out Jordanians that they were watching.

In order to study the water problem, we went to the National Water Project, where we were briefed on its workings. We later saw the results all through the country. The importance of the desalination works in Elath was explained to us.

The Arab problem was discussed in great detail. The rapid Arab population growth as compared with the slow growth of the Jewish population is a major internal problem. The Arabs are reproducing at three times the rate of the Jews, and will outnumber them in one and a half generations. With this and other background information, we toured the West Bank, Golan Heights, and Sinai. During our travels through Israel, we were exposed to all of the facets of this great nation's history, religion, geography, culture, the people and their many problems. I was left with many impressions, one of which impressed me greatly. The Jews are a unique sort of people, not like most. We feel the responsibility to help each other, if it is through Joint, ORT, UHIAS, UJA, or the settling of a Kibbutz, or defending the Israel border.

I believe that Israel will, and more importantly, must survive if Jews are to survive. The refugees that we saw had no place to go except Israel, and it was the fulfillment of a dream for them. As a result of this study mission, I have found that Israel is an integral part of my life. I am a Jew, and as a Jew I must help to maintain Israel to the best of my ability, for her people are my people.

Steve Seiden

John Domont



December 7, 1968

Dear Sam,

In reality there is no excuse for my negligence in writing this letter. Not knowing why you should I hope that you will accept my sincere apology. Sam, I thank you. I hope that all is well with you and that you have been having as much of a productive year as I have. Over the months since my return to the States, my mind has been going through a complete change of phase. From early August until late September I thought of very little other than a quick return to Israel. Then I began to feel that I was forcing myself to change my entire life, and too quickly at that. For some reason, unknown to myself, I have a difficult time in deciding whether or not I actually feel as I think I do. I hope you understand what I mean. None the less, I have developed a great love for Judaism and Israel. I feel that both of these will be great factors in guiding and shaping my life. Do to you're leadership, the members of the group, and the trip, I feel I have become a more serious and meaningful person to myself. I am very happy this year and I am engaged in many activities as I was not last year. I am working in a very fine art gallery and am benefiting from it very much. I was appointed vice-chairman of the cultural affairs board on campus. I am moving into an

apartment next semester, as I feel I have outgrown the "fraternity way of life". Several weeks ago I received a letter from Saul Silverman, who is with the U.J.A. in Phoenix. I made contact immediately. Last week I met with Saul and pledged my will to do whatever I could for the U.J.A. and the campus as well as the local campaign. I am very enthused about working with Saul and the U.J.A. I am very excited about being in New York at the end of the week. I hope that we can get a chance to talk as I have much to discuss with you. Take care of yourself and say hello to you're family for me.

With All My Truest Friendship and Respect



12/5/68

Sam:

Would you believe . . .!? Here is my evaluation. It ain't much--but I said I would do it, so here it is. I just have one more comment on this summer---it was GREAT!!

AMERICAN JEWISH
Michael
ARCHIVES
Michael S. Feldman



12/5/68

Before I get into the important part of this evaluation, I want to first mention some areas in which improvements can be made for next year's mission. We discussed most of these in our sessions this summer, but I feel that they are worth repeating. First of all, the reading list should be completely abolished. (no offense to your writing, Sam!!) Jew, God, and History by Max I. Dilmont should be the only required reading and this book could be used as the basis for discussions with Rabbi Friedman. Also, if anything is going to be sent to the participants of the mission, yalmukas should be included. Only a few of the guys had these with them, and as we found out soon enough we needed them practically everywhere we went in Europe.

I also think that something should be done about the visit to Geneva. It was a beautiful city and I am glad that we went there, but I felt that it contributed nothing to the mission itself. Granted, the JDC and ORT are centered there, but we did not get anything out of visiting these offices. If something can be done to make the visit to this city more worthwhile, then it should be; if not the city should be taken off the itinerary. The only other alternative is to make the time in Geneva completely free, but this would probably not work out too well, especially with a large group.

I went on the mission last summer because it was a choice of that or staying in Detroit for the summer. I expected to find a group consisting of "good" orthodox boys who would one day become rabbis. (Before last June I had a very low opinion of both Orthodox Jews and rabbis.)

I discovered right away that I had had the wrong idea about this group. The same was true about the trip itself. I had expected to spend eight weeks learning and studying--- without learning anything--- without any time at all for play. Well, this too was a misconception. I am among the few who think that we did have enough free time this summer.

The program itself was excellent for the most part. Except for our stay in Geneva, I feel that I learned something in every place we visited. I think that the stay in Tel Aviv was too long and could have been made shorter in favor of more time in another city such as Jerusalem. This also goes for Eilat. I think everyone who goes to Israel should spend at least one night in this city, but after sweating it out for three days I felt that we overdid it a little.

The biggest complaint I have concerns the amount of time devoted to archeology. I realize that Albert was quite heavy on this, but after a while nothing he said was sinking in. I felt that doing things such as visiting the development town of Or-yehudah were much more worthwhile than walking through a dozen wadis.

Another area which could use some improvement is the time spent on a kibbutz. Getting up to pick fruit in the middle of the night could have contributed a great deal more than it did had we been able to work with the kibbutzniks. Instead of really working, seeing how it was just the group, we goofed off a great deal of the time that we were out in the field.

During the summer, all of these little things really bothered me and Rabbi Friedman told me that in a few months I would be able to put my complaints in the proper perspective with regards to the rest of the trip. Well, if it was not for some notes I took during the summer I would not even be able to remember these things now. (it doesn't even bother me anymore when I think about all those damn hikes and how I heard the history of every rock in Israel----now I just laugh when I think about it!) The only reason that I am including them is that I feel that improving on these areas will help improve the mission greatly. (Incidentally, I am definitely against expanding the group to ninety people, for I think that it will cause the group to lose the ability to become close and to do certain things that we did only because we were a small group)

As I said above, I was not really looking forward to going on the mission. Right now I am very glad that I did go. I have always said that if I like the people whom I am with that I could have a good time no matter what I am doing. Undoubtedly this was true for this summer. But it was more than just a matter of enjoying myself, for I really believe that I learned something.

I feel strongly about wanting to do something for the Israelis, the immigrants and oppressed Jews around the world. When I got back to school this semester I was all fired up to do something in connection with the local Hillel chapter. Unfortunately, because I am not very enthusiastic about school, whenever I become involved in

extra curricular activities I tend to forget about my school work completely.

There is one thing, though, that I would like to do. I think that the only way that you will ever get a large group to go on the mission is if guys who have already been talk to people who are thinking about going. I don't think that talking to people in groups is as effective as talking to these applicants individually. If it hadn't been for the fact that I talked to a member of last year's mission, I probably would not have gone. These kids have got to be convinced that they really do want to go on the mission.

Before this summer I had no feelings one way or the other about the German people. None of my relatives were murdered during the war and although I have never been ashamed of my Jewish heritage, I realize now that I knew very little about the other Jews, i.e. those who are not Americans. Well, my feelings toward the Germans has definitely changed for the worse and I do feel that it is my responsibility ---and the responsibility of every other free Jew----- to do as much as possible to help other Jews and Israel. I can not say that I want to devote my life to this, but I do feel that I have a responsibility and that just as my responsibility to the community will grow, so will my responsibility to Israel.

Michael

Michael S. Feldman

MEMORANDUM

Date October 28, 1968

To Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

From Samuel H. Abramson

Subject 1968 University Study Mission

file

In the two months that have passed since we returned, we have been able to assess the effect of our Mission on the 27 boys involved. I believe the Mission achieved its objectives. The boys came home deeply moved by their experience, with a sense of involvement and commitment to Israel and the Jewish people. They acquired an understanding of the course of Jewish history in the past generation. Europe was a shock, Israel was a revelation. Many of them are now looking for ways to become personally involved. Some have already taken the first steps, Mitchell, Manvil and Sharf on the West Coast, Seiden and Yenoff in their own communities. There are probably others too. At this point, of course, the important thing is to utilize their enthusiasm on the college campuses and to keep them current on developments through information from this office.

We had no real problems on the trip. Within a week of our departure, it became apparent that our group was divided into two components. After the shake-down we knew that we had a solid base of twenty-two boys who were eager and cooperative, and a group of five who required special handling. This did not present a great problem. The boys were not too difficult to handle. Four of the five, Levinson, Matthew, Pearlstein and Shmikler, simply wanted to play as much as possible, and had to be prodded and pushed. Their interminable sun-worship became a standing joke. Saltzman was a different case - somewhat of a maverick, impetuous, headstrong and wilful. I got to know him quite well. He had a deep feeling for Israel and wanted to remain to take the Ulpan in preparation for a year at the Hebrew University. At my insistence, he consulted his parents before taking any steps. These boys realized very early that they were causing difficulties and very early confessed to me and promised to be "good boys". Their antics did not disrupt the group and they participated in our activities. They cannot be compared to the small group of recalcitrants which caused so much trouble on the first Mission nor was there any acrimony or exchange of harsh language. It is interesting to note that Levinson wrote an article for his local Center publication and Pearlstein prepared a very witty skit for our farewell dinner.

On the whole, the group functioned smoothly and without many problems. This despite the fact that it varied in composition. The boys varied in degree of

sophistication. There were sharp personality differences. There was a small group of activists who stood out for various reasons. They were always on time, participated in everything, did not complain. They worked hard and played hard. Most of the boys were the "quiet ones", a joy to work with, attentive and interested and deeply grateful for what they got out of the trip. Perhaps I should make an individual evaluation of every boy in the group.

The European cities we visited were worthwhile and gave the boys an insight into the tragedy which had befallen European Jewry. It was a traumatic experience for many of them. Vienna was an excellent start. Our stay in Berlin was very pleasant - it was there that we had our closest contact with the Jewish community - and also had contact with non-Jewish students. I think our first dialogue with Jewish students in Berlin on June 24th was an eye-opener especially when the Jewish students' President, Micha Guttman, said "We consider ourselves as Germans." Munich was a memorable experience but no thanks to the Jewish community. The first student get-together was a total failure but I suspect this was due to Mr. Baumgartner's ineptness. This was the only city where attempts were made to rook us - particularly by the manager of the Jewish Club.

In regard to Geneva, I think it is a serious mistake to visit a great European city without allowance for some free time. We were in and out of Geneva like a flash and there were some bitter complaints on this score. A full free day for sight-seeing in Geneva would not have been out of place.

It was a good idea to telescope the JDC and HIAS briefings into one session. The ground was covered adequately. There seems to have been some criticism of the group's conduct at Anieres but I don't think the boys were wholly to blame. Leila Seigel wrote IB that both the JDC group a couple of weeks earlier and our group seemed to have found the briefing sessions too long. Unfortunately, people at such institutions seem to think it necessary to exhibit every laboratory and classroom. This can be very boring and I felt constrained to bring this to Miss Seigel's attention. Robin Gilbert briefed the boys in the language lab. They were very attentive but by that time had seen enough of the school and then waited for the bus - which arrived very late. Had Mr. Gilbert been there to receive us and brief us before the tour - the impression might have been different.

In regard to the meetings with students in various cities - a good number of these students were Israelis and not local young people. Social get-togethers were a mixed success. The boys complained that the good looking girls came with escorts and there weren't enough girls in any case. However, we should keep on trying - perhaps we'll hit a happy medium one of these days.

HOTELS

Wherever possible, hotels should be in the heart of cities to enable the boys to get around to meet people. The Gloriette in Vienna was shabby and a long way from the city center. It was understandable as Vienna was a last minute arrangement. The Habis in Munich was clean and cheerful and quite centrally located. However, we had only one shower for the group. There was another available but it had been rented out. Despite this our stay was quite pleasant even with the petty thievery of our host, Max Gessner, known as "Jolly Max, the Happy Crook". The hotels in Berlin and Geneva were fine. The YMCA in London should not be used again. It was seedy and dark and reeked of urine. There were no showers, only some ancient tubs on each floor and some of the boys refused to bathe in them. Also extremely difficult to get a phone call.

Hotels in Israel were all good but some of them were remote from the hearts of the cities. This is particularly important in Israel. I made one change from the hostel at Arad - where the boys would have been four in a room without air conditioning. I am all in favor of roughing it - but the boys were in no mood for it at that point and this would have been an unnecessary hardship.

ISRAEL

I would recommend that the Israel itinerary start differently. After arrival, proceed directly to Jerusalem for two days of intensive briefing by authorities in various fields. The boys then are fresh, enthusiastic and receptive. To schedule lectures, as we did, after a month of hard travel in the country, is asking too much and self-defeating. After the two days of indoctrination, we should proceed north, do the tour of the country and finally end up for a glorious week in Jerusalem.

We were very fortunate in our guide. Albert Maya is an unusual person, extremely articulate and with a vast background of knowledge. However, while we got a good view of the country, I don't think we saw enough of the cities and villages. Even in a small country like Israel, there is great variety and I don't think we got it. For instance, we never saw a religious settlement or anything of religious life. Some questions were raised on this score. We never saw anything of the seamy side of life in Israel either. Haifa is not only the Carmel, it is also Wadi Salib. There are slums in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. We had a group of intelligent boys. They should be exposed to these things. Finally, we might have seen something of the kaleidoscope of peoples who make up Israel - in their villages and settlements.

The kibbutz experience both this year and last just didn't come off. Both Hagoshrim and Kfar Blum are resorts and we lived like tourists in air conditioned hotels. We had practically no contact with kibbutz life. Getting up at 4:00 PM to pick apples may be fun - but is this contact with kibbutz life? I pleaded for our boys to have breakfast with the kibbutzniks after work - but was refused. Unless we can find a place where our boys can share the life of the kibbutz - and for not too long - we should stop pretending that the kibbutz is anything but another type of hotel for tourists.

We were unable to arrange a visit to a military establishment. (I am not counting our visits to Sarafend to inspect captured war material and for an evening's entertainment.) However, the Young Leadership Mission did have a visit to an Air Force Base on July 12th and saw a graduation ceremony for pilots. Why couldn't our group have participated in that visit? I did not learn about it until too late. There should be better coordination in future.

There should be more meetings, even short ones, with top-level personalities, if that is possible. The boys enjoyed their meeting with Teddy Kollek. Can we set up more of that kind of thing to give them the thrill of meeting with top-level personalities.

There was some feeling that it was not necessary to visit every institution of higher learning. We had at one time thought of having the boys spend two days at Hebrew University, taking lectures and pretending they were students. This is not what they want. However, two days of intensive indoctrination at the beginning of their stay in Israel would serve the same purpose.

LET'S MEET THE PEOPLE

I suspect the cry of "Let's meet the people" really means "Let's meet the girls." People - and girls - can be met if there is more time to go where people are. This is easier when hotels are located in the heart of cities. Perhaps we can find out where young people go for fun and arrange for our boys to go there. Dinners in private homes were very popular. Perhaps we can arrange more - but it isn't too easy. However, this business of "Let's meet the people" was by no means unanimous or even a majority opinion. At our last meeting in Jerusalem, Jeff Sternlieb stated that "the business of meeting people is far too overplayed. On our first trip we want to learn about the country" and this perhaps is a good expression of what most of the boys felt. Teen-age boys are quite clannish and I have seen them sitting in rooms in groups and have had to urge them to talk to people - even girls. In Israel particularly we should try to get them together with young people's groups but this may not be too easy. How could this be arranged in this country if the situations were reversed?

ON SCREENING AND OTHER THINGS

We were unduly exercised before the trip about the length of a boy's hair. I would suggest that this is not our legitimate concern if a boy meets all other requirements. It turned out that our long-hair, Neil Berkman, was a very serious young man, mature beyond his years. Despite a physical handicap, he participated in every activity, was always on time, and deeply appreciated all we were trying to do. His long hair bothered nobody. It should be noted that Jon Mitchell who started the whole furor, wore beads on his last night in London, which we spent together. The boys should perhaps be screened, if possible, but for other reasons. They should know in advance what the trip is and what is expected of them. The "fun" boys to whom I referred at the outset claimed that they thought they were going on a vacation. One boy told me that his father had forced him to join the group with threats of making him go to work. These should be straightened out at the outset and made fully aware of what the trip entails.

Special arrangements made with some of the boys, and the presence of a high-school boy did lead to some complaints. These were not too difficult to handle but should be avoided if at all possible. This is easy if we have enough boys for the trip. Willy Gilbert, after his week off to go to his kibbutz, in his brash and impudent manner demanded another week off. This I denied out of hand and he accepted my decision in good grace. Rock Yenoff, the high-school graduate, was a helpful boy who participated in everything and who has spoken in his community. However, some of the others felt that the presence of a high-school boy downgraded the status of the group. Myron Katz was enough to try the patience of a saint. We will have none of these problems if the group is large enough, which I believe should prove no problem for next summer.

Obviously, there must be some latitude in our schedule. Not all items on the itinerary are of equal importance or interest. The group leader must decide which are "Required" and which "Optional". There are days when boys simply do not feel like working and would like to take it easy. In the case of the "good" boys, these are few and far between. The "fun" boys would like to goof off at every opportunity and should be treated accordingly. Above all, I would strongly recommend against democratic procedure, such as voting on whether to go somewhere or not. This was suggested several times but I ruled against it. The boys have no experience on which to base a decision. Some would vote "no" to anything but most want to see as much as possible and are very happy about it post-facto. The leader should lead and make exceptions where he sees good and sufficient reason.

At our final review session in Jerusalem there was general agreement that 36 days in Israel was not too long a period, and that Europe as prologue was vital.

Finally, to the question of girls. My own vote is NO. There was a group camaraderie which might be lost. Girls would require special arrangements. The group leader should be guide, mentor and counsellor but not a chaperone. The 1967 group voted no. Our group voted no in Berchtesgaden but many changed their minds later, which is understandable. As time passed, some of the boys got lonesome for female company. That last week in Jerusalem was hectic. Some of our best boys were deeply involved with girls they had met along the way, and it was a difficult job getting a quorum on some occasions.

Of course, I am thinking in terms of a group of approximately the same size, one bus load. If we plan a mission of a more grandiose nature, then there may be room for a girls' group as well, to travel with the boys. If there is, I have the first candidate, the daughter of Albert Brout of Newport News.

PUBLICITY COVERAGE

As of this date, I have made the following check list of news coverage on the Mission:

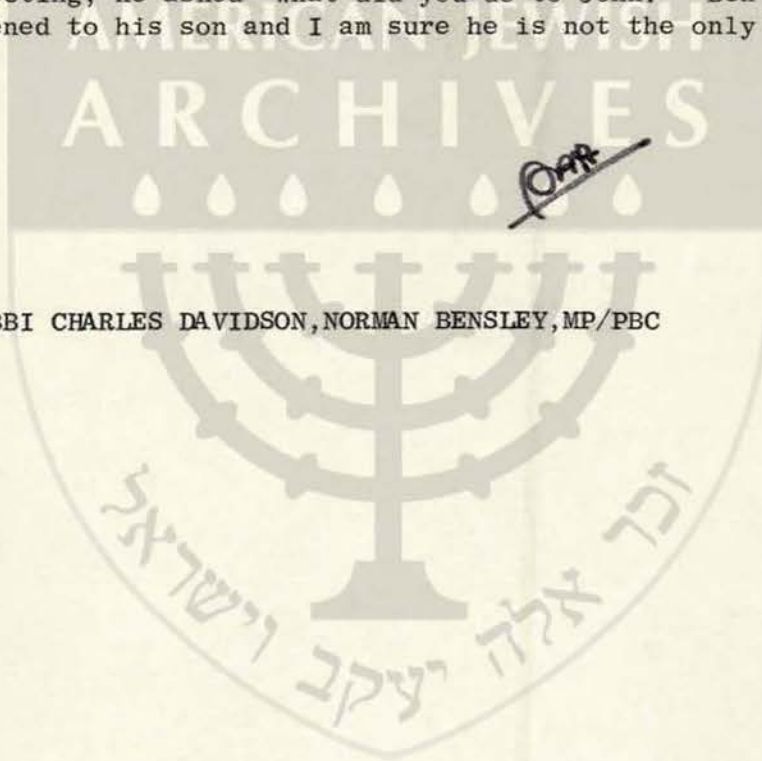
October 28, 1968

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Stories</u>
Jerusalem Post	2
Jewish Observer & Middle East Review	2
Anglo-Jewish Weeklies (22)	27 (with 12 pictures)
Local dailies (2)	2 (with 2 pictures)
Centre Organs (3)	3 (stories written by Levinson, Seiden and Yenoff)

It was a rewarding experience for me. They were a great group of boys and some of them will be the leaders of tomorrow. I developed a very warm relationship with many of them and some of the sentiments they expressed were very gratifying. We should keep in touch with the boys as much as possible. I am sure that many of the parents are very happy about the experience their sons had last summer. When I saw Ben Domont at the last Cabinet meeting, he asked "What did you do to John?" Ben is delighted with what happened to his son and I am sure he is not the only father who feels that way.

SHA:RF

CC: IB, RABBI CHARLES DAVIDSON, NORMAN BENSLEY, MP/PBC



CD

1124 Maybrook Dr.
Beverly Hills, Calif. 90210

October 29, 1968

Dear Sam:

Before I begin any evaluation, let me first express my sincere apologies for responding so slowly to your letter. I have no excuse to offer; I am truly sorry for my delinquency. However, please be assured that my time was not simply wasted. On the contrary, I find myself constantly trying to assess and re-assess the results of our mission.

I enjoyed the trip immensely. I still find myself amazed at the diversity of opinions and personalities represented in a group of only twenty-six young men. I was able to begin several lasting friendships among members of the group, as well as to be exposed to a cross-section of American Jewry. As the days and weeks pass since the end of the tour I find myself becoming more involved with the Jews around me. I realize for the first time in my life the pride and the responsibility of being a Jew. The bonds I feel with Israel are real - drawn from the wonderful insight this trip gave me. I thank you for my new found identity.

As far as the itinerary and program are concerned, I can find no fault. Naturally, I was unhappy about this and that little item during the course of the tour, but in retrospect I can find little fault. Europe seemed to be the most vibrant and interesting part of our trip, but I feel that this is because we spent so little time there in comparison to our inch-by-inch tour of Israel. However, I find it extremely difficult to justify spending three days in Eilat, or two days on the kibbutz. The time would have been more profitably spent either in Europe or in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Friedman discussed his plans for future missions with us. He wants to take 100 people in three buses. I say absolutely not. As I have already mentioned, one of the most valuable results of the tour was our close personal contact. We shared the tour and its experiences among ourselves. If the number of participants is too large, this closeness will be lost. On the question of girls, I feel this way: If the group is small, then no girls; if the group is very large, it makes no difference one way or the other.

Again I thank you for your friendship and for the deep insight you were able to give me.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Neil G. Berkman

P.S. My college address is the same as my home address.

So 2

10 October 1968

Mr. Jon Mitchell
1001 N. Roxbury Drive
Beverly Hills, California

Dear Jon:

AMERICAN JEWISH

Your letter was beautiful and I appreciate it so very much. I am sorry that I do not have time to answer in detail, but I am leaving in a few minutes for Israel with the big Mission. I hope your radio interview and TV interview will come off well and I would love to see the results.

I hope that the friendship which we developed on the student mission will continue over the years and I look forward to seeing you the next time I come to the Coast.

With warm good wishes, I am,

As ever,

HAF:gb

Herbert A. Friedman

Davidson
NOV 15 1968

918 Park Hall
110 W. 11th Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43210
November 12, 1968

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
United Jewish Appeal
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Rabbi Friedman,

Enclosed is my evaluation of the 1968 University Study Mission. I hope that at this late date, it may still be of some constructive use in planning next year's mission.

Please give my regards to Sam and Norman.

Sincerely,

Donald Perlmutter
Donald Perlmutter

70711111

Personal Reactions

The European portion of the trip affected me in a two-fold manner. Primarily, it shocked and awakened me. The sites of Mathausen and Dachau, the dwindling German-Jewish community, and meeting of Polish immigrants combined to split the insulation of American life and produced an emotional experience new to me. Anti-Semitism of the past and present became very real instead of something I had only heard and read about. I felt a deep indignation beginning in Vienna which grew to outrage by the time we reached Munich. Consistent with this, was the sensation of wonder and then impatience with those Jews who live "with one eye closed" while the Neo-Nazi party rises.

I would like at this point to interject that I feel no overwhelming hate for the Germans, ^{even} having seen the landmarks of their destruction. I do, however, have an attitude of caution toward the Austro-Germans because of their apparently deft ability to rationalize and forget.

The secondary effect of the European portion, to me, was that of an educational experience. Distinct from the emotional shock described above, the massive exposure to facts gave a working knowledge of what actually happened in the holocaust, how communities are recuperating, and what needs to be done to prevent a recurrence. Above all, this educational phase of the European tour acquainted me with the functional arms of the U.J.A. and the nature of their work. Again, this was a matter of piercing the insulation of the American Jew by putting names like Egon Fink, Zvi Garci, and Dodo Cohen behind the initials J.D.C. and J.A. It is easy to overdramatize the work of these men, but to say they are totally dedicated is no exaggeration.

In spite of the emotional and educational fullness of the European tour, I felt a nagging deficiency throughout these 2 & 1/2 weeks. Although I felt deeply about what we had seen, my outrage was at crimes against humans, not because they were specifically Jews. In short, I felt no identification with the "suffering Jew". This deficiency was remedied in the Israeli portion of the trip.

My reactions during the tour through Israel were varied. Initially, I was very excited to be there because of all I had heard from family and friends. I was anxious to see what it was all about and why this place was such a magnet for Jews. The effect of Israel on me can be summed up by saying it tied up the loose ends of the European tour. After witnessing the way Jews handle their own country, I found something to identify with and could finally feel myself to be a "member". The overriding concern on the part of the government for the psychological welfare of the individual, in a sense, opened up the whole character of the Jew to me. Within the span of a few days all the pieces fell into place. The combined vocational-academic high school in Dimona and the philosophy of the Malben institute in Tel Aviv typified the ingrained humanitarianism and sensitivity which can only be acquired through the type of suffering sustained by the Jews. From this point on, I began to take a personal pride in Israel and its accomplishments. By the end of the trip, this feeling was generalized to a pride in all Jewish culture and heritage.

The feeling is new to me and is still developing, but I sense that it will ultimately manifest itself in a commitment to Israel and my community.

I no longer feel only a detached admiration for agency workers, but now have an understanding of why and for what they work. Most important, I have acquired a desire to contribute my own time and efforts.

Critique of the Itinerary with Recommendations

Generally, I feel the program was excellently planned. The sequence of emotions I experienced was no accident, but a product of careful anticipation of the mission designers.

I would make only minor changes in the European tour since the format of emotional impact was of definite value. Less time in Vienna and more in Geneva would be appropriate as long as the German aspect is still stressed. I mention Geneva because I found the session with J.D.C. officials very instructive. The trips to Eisenstat, the Salzburg mines, and Berchtesgaden were excellent and should be retained in the itinerary. Generally, the seminars and discussions were good, but it might be of value to break down into smaller groups when meeting with foreign students. Visits to the sites of the camps should definitely remain on the agenda. Possibly a stay in Marseilles to meet Moroccan immigrants would be of value.

In Israel, much could have been omitted. Although such spots as Safed, Tiberias, Kfar Ruppin, and the Golan Heights are important, several days spent in the Galilee could have been deleted. The stay in Eilat was unnecessary and weakened enthusiasm for the trip. Too much time was allotted to the stay in Tel Aviv and it was here that the trip began to drag. However, time cut from this area should not be at the expense of a day trip to Caesaria.

The stay in Beersheba could be enriched if timed to coincide with a Bedouin festival. The trip to El Arish should remain in the itinerary if possible. I think the idea of ending the Israeli tour in Jerusalem should be retained. However, all program should be omitted from this stay. By this time, my mind was supersaturated and touring detracted rather than added to the general impression.

The short stay in England was a good idea because it provided a welcome rest period and a chance for the past two month's impressions to settle to some small degree.

On the question of mandatory attendance to all of the mission functions, I would disagree with the 1968 policy. An individual whose presence is forced, will be disruptive or disenchanted with the trip. At any rate, he will not receive or contribute, regardless of the potential benefit of the activity.

Accommodations in all cases should be nearer the points of interest of the city stayed in. This condition should exist even at the expense of more luxurious housing.

All social events should be omitted. If the time were given to free activity, social functions could be carried out on an individual level, and the failures of parties would be avoided.

I do not feel that girls should be members of the study mission. One of the most valuable parts of the trip is the close friendships formed between the boys. The relative closeness of the group is important for morale and cooperation in a trip of this length. The presence of girls might make the trip more fun, but it would be at the expense of comradery.

Finally, touring would be more rewarding if the mission member had some at-hand source of fact (history, data, biography) background.

I realize the tremendous amount of work involved, but a booklet with a thumbnail sketch of each site visited would be of immense value while touring.

One afterthought: tours of development towns should not include visits of 30 boys to the home of one immigrant. I found this personally embarrassing as a mission member, and I'm sure it was degrading to the immigrant to be "looked at".

918 Park Hall
110 W. 11th Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43210



NOV 13 1968

Davidson

10 November 1968.

Dear Rabbi Friedman and Sam,

I apologize for delaying this correspondence so long, but aside from being a notoriously poor writer, I've been kept extremely busy this semester. Not wanting to make this letter a thoughtless one, I've put off the matter until enough time was available to give it the thought that I believe is necessary.

Before I become a cold, analytical critic however, I wish to express my sincere thanks to both of you, as well as to the entire U.J.A. organization for making possible the most enlightening and enjoyable experience of my life. The trip was not just an unforgettable experience but indeed, it was one that shaped me into a more aware and better rounded person. I was somewhat aware of my responsibilities as a Jew before the trip, but now, aside from being far more aware, I also know in which directions those responsibilities lie. That is, I now have a much clearer idea of how to fulfill those responsibilities.

The trip as a whole was extremely well planned. There are however some suggestions I have that hopefully will make next years trip even better.

First of all, I suggest that the members of next years mission are more carefully chosen. I was under the impression that one of the prerequisites of potential group members was 'leadership potential'. It is my opinion that an actual minority of those on our mission possessed such a potential. A boy with a rich father does not in itself assume that such a prerequisite is fulfilled. I make this statement as a

result of much observation of last summer's participants.

Perhaps your idea of a leader and mine are different; but if you share my belief in any way, to any degree, I seriously suggest that you set up a more careful screening of members before you accept them.

Rabbi Friedman, your idea of enlarging the group to perhaps 100 members next year repulses me. The trip was good, damn good; but not perfect. I suggest that you work on perfecting a trip for 30 before upping the number to even 31, much less a hundred. It is your responsibility to the U.J.A. and to the members of future Missions to do this. It is not quantity that breeds leadership but quality. The Rhode Island U.J.A. which I believe is one of the best proportionate to size is run because of five or six highly skilled leaders. Last year I don't believe that there were 30 or even 20 potential leaders on our trip. To actually believe that next year you can get 100 with such a potential seems ludicrous.

Personalization lends itself to instruction. The further away from personalization one goes, the less effective that instruction becomes. I've seen this in college several times. I always seem to learn more in smaller classes. If you are really determined to have 100 boys on next year's mission, I suggest that you plan 3 or even 4 completely separate trips. Although you may lose a few bucks on lower hotel rates, I think that you'll find that in the long run your profits will be way up.

My final suggestion has to do with the Israeli agenda. I agree with you that it is important to see Israel from top to bottom. I think our difference is a matter of degree. I think we wasted too much time in the Galilee, I think our stay at the Kibbutz Hagoshrim was for the most part pretty fruitless. In short, I think that it is possible to see Israel, from top to bottom in three weeks. I spoke to Albert about this and he seemed to agree. If it would be possible to open an option to individual members where those who wanted to see Israel the way we did could, whereas those who didn't want quite as comprehensive a look could spend the other two weeks with an Israeli family or perhaps could be on their own during that time. If such an option could be worked out, I think ~~the appeal~~ of Israel could be of greater appeal to more people.

All in all the trip was fantastic. It fulfilled my greatest expectations and then some.

It's been a pleasure and an honor to have made your acquaintance and I hope to further our acquaintance in the years to come.

Thanks again,

Bob Thaler

Bob Thaler

October 6, 1968

RECEIVED			
OCT 9 - 1968			
NOTED BY	REFER TO		
DATE	IB	IB	DATE
		Goodson	
		MP	
		PBC	
ANSWERED			

Rabbi Herbert A Friedman
 Executive Vice Chairman, UJA
 1290 Avenue of the Americas
 New York, New York 10019

Dear Rabbi Friedman,
 I should first like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this year's UJA University Study Mission. In many ways I found it a very rewarding experience. Thanks to you, Sam's and Norman's careful planning, I hope you will convey to Sam and Norman my deepest thanks for helping things run so smoothly and making ^{everything} so enjoyable.

10/9 - SHA

I understand that your hopes for this mission were to encourage us to become interested in, and actively involved in, the affairs of the Jewish community. For myself, I feel the experiences of these two months did heighten my commitment to my fellow Jews. Whereas before my involvement stemmed from an emotional tie to my people I can now also feel an objective need for being active in my Jewish community.

Probably the biggest impacts of the trip upon me were during the first two weeks. The experiences in Germany and Austria were shocking in many ways and are of the type I'll never forget. And the completely different feeling I had upon arriving in Israel for the first time - seeing only people who had survived Hitler's - was heightening by our stay in ^{Germany}.

Therefore, I would suggest that next year you do the same thing because of its strong impact on many of us. Spend a week or two in ^{Germany} ~~Israel~~ and you should try to be with the group as much as possible to recreate the Holocaust & have people ^(Survivors) who lived through those years; retell the story. Then plunge the group into Israel & they'll really appreciate its significance. If the group is going to visit in France or Italy (which might be good to clarify the refugee situation today) let it be after their stay in Israel.

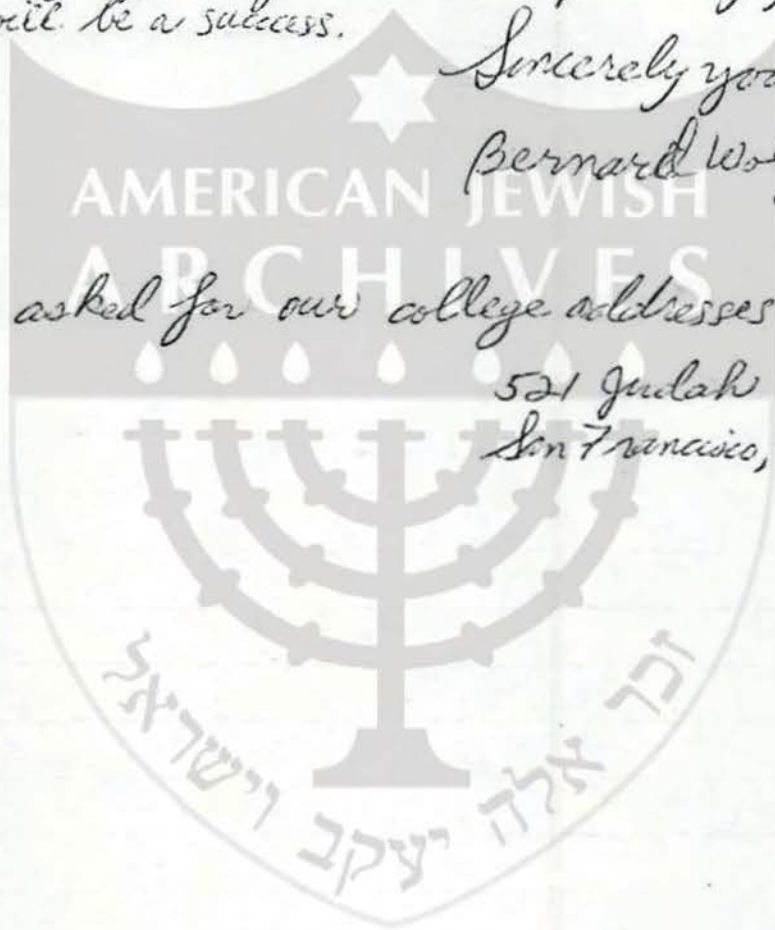
Regarding our stay in Israel I would say that it might easily be shortened by a week or two. And the shortened stay should be as hard-hitting on the Israeli situation as possible. Don't try to cover every aspect of the current and past Israel! Avoid touring every ancient synagogue or crusader castle. We can not learn the whole history of the country in two months and few were really that interested. Similarly, there was no need to visit every zimmer and eat in each respective cafeteria & see each dorm. Instead you might have included a visit to the museum of the 6,000,000. Why spend three days in a kibbutz "great house" and never visit a Jewish synagogue in Israel or talk to a Hasidic rabbi?

I think that there is no reason to insist that the group members go on any activity and that it only insults them if you treat them like babies in this way. You assume that anyone who participates in the mission is interested enough to follow each activity. I assume that if people don't go on a particular activity it is because they don't find it relative enough to their Jewish commitment and that something was wrong with the planning of that event. Certainly few of us were inspired by our tour of the water pumps. On the other hand, I for one was very impressed by our visit

to Kfar Ruppin and by the people I met there.
 On closing I should like to say that I don't think you should increase the size of the group to where you'd have to split it into two. I do think that girls should be included in the trip but undoubtedly they won't be. Anyway, best luck in the planning of next year's trip. I'm sure it will be a success.

Sincerely yours,
 Bernard Wolf

P.S. Sam asked for our college addresses so here's mine:
 521 Judah
 San Francisco, California 94122



September 26, 1968

RECEIVED

SEP 30 1968

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

IB
please return

NOTED BY		REFER TO	
DATE			DATE
		<i>HAF-1B</i>	
ANSWERED			

Dear Rabbi Friedman,

Please thank Sam for his letter of September 19, 1968.

Most of all, I thank you, Sam, Norman, and the U.J.A., for the complete change in my life. Had it not been for my joining the University Study Mission, I would still be saying: "It's too bad that the Jews suffered in Europe twenty-five years ago; it's too bad that the Jews of Europe are still being persecuted today; and it's too bad about the situation as it stands in Israel." My thoughts would end at that point.

cc library
MP
PBC
SD
9/30

Today, when I think of Mauthausen, Dachau, and the ghetto of Eisenstadt, I shutter and begin to burn within. To even imagine what happened in those places, brings tears to my eyes. When Israel comes to mind, so do the feelings of achievement and pride. To know what has been accomplished in twenty years by a people who have been looked down on and who have suffered the greatest cruelties of mankind for generations, brought me, for the first time in my life, to proudly say; "I am a Jew."

The greatest part of the trip, was when we left the hatred of the Jews in Europe, and arrived in the land where the first word seen is "Shalom"--a country where every Jew is wanted.

The errors in the itinerary are minor. Perhaps better hotels in Vienna and Munich would be in order, and perhaps a couple of extra days in Geneva might have been enjoyable. In no way, however, could the importance and meaning of every place we visited been changed for the better. Every town and city was necessary to make the full impact of the purpose of the trip.

I am now planning a few radio interviews, a television interview on the program, "The Essence of Judaism", and am in the early stages of forming a young leadership division of the Community Service Committee.

I only hope that your efforts in making this trip possible will not go in vain, and that each one of us who had the opportunity to be on the Mission will assume his responsibility in the community for the aid of the family of Jews, in Europe and in Israel, as well as here in this country.

Thank you again.

Sincerely yours,

Jon Mitchell

JM/11

William Q. Gilbert

Evaluation of 1968 U.I.A. Univ. Study Mission

I realize the difficulties in putting together such a program as each individual's tastes cannot be catered to, however there are several broad suggestions I would like to make:

- 1) The order of cities was good except I feel less time should be spent in Vienna and more time allocated to Geneva.
- 2) Experiences like Eisenstadt, Mauthausen, Dachau, Vienna train station, Berchtesgaden are a must. They were some of the most informative & rewarding experiences in the trip.
- 3) Planned social affairs (dances, etc.) should be eliminated: free time given to the boys. It is impossible to provide adequate dates and that is what the evenings are for. After a full day of lectures and sightseeing it is quite healthy to go out on the town.
- 4) All lectures and discussions with hosts should be much more rewarding. Many lectures were dull and much too long. We repeatedly heard the same story everywhere. The most enjoyable meetings were with

William Q. Sibert

Rabbi Friedman, one in Geneva, and two in Israel; one with Teddy Koller and one with Sam Meltzer in Eilat. Unfortunately I missed a session with Leon Fine which I understand was excellent.

5) Many boys felt there was not enough time for pleasure sightseeing. I realize there are many places of Jewish significance that must be covered first. This is a problem I don't think anyone can settle.

On a more personal note I would like to add the following thoughts.

- 1) I realize you have a tight budget but the food in quality and quantity was inadequate.
- 2) The hotel arrangements were not bad at all (better than I had expected.)
- 3) Zvi Gancy : Dado Cohen are two of the finest people I have ever met.

Albert Maya, our guide and Zvi, our driver, were a pleasure to be with. Dr. G. G. G.

William Q. Gilbert

- 4) I think you should spend a little more time considering all the applicants. I realize you are all under certain pressures but I don't feel it is fair to those boys who take the study mission seriously.
- 5) I was sold on Judaism before the trip, yet in 8 weeks I found my convictions growing deeper. The mission gave me much pleasure, a great deal of knowledge, and some excellent companionship.
- 6) I feel Sam and Norman deserve a great deal of credit for keeping us all in line.
- 7) Finally, Herb Friedman is one of the most dynamic individuals I have ever had the pleasure of meeting.

Much success for the future,

William Q. Gilbert

918 Park Hall
110 W. 11th Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43210

November 12, 1968

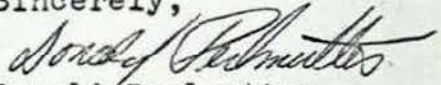
Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
United Jewish Appeal
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10019

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Please give my regards to Sam and Norman.

Sincerely,


Donald Perlmutter

Personal Reactions

The European portion of the trip affected me in a two-fold manner. Primarily, it shocked and awakened me. The sites of Mathausen and Dachau, the dwindling German-Jewish community, and meeting of Polish immigrants combined to split the insulation of American life and produced an emotional experience new to me. Anti-Semitism of the past and present became very real instead of something I had only heard and read about. I felt a deep indignation beginning in Vienna which grew to outrage by the time we reached Munich. Consistent with this, was the sensation of wonder and then impatience with those Jews who live "with one eye closed" while the Neo-Nazi party rises.

I would like at this point to interject that I feel no overwhelming hate for the Germans, ^{even} having seen the landmarks of their destruction. I do, however, have an attitude of caution toward the Austro-Germans because of their apparently deft ability to rationalize and forget.

The secondary effect of the European portion, to me, was that of an educational experience. Distinct from the emotional shock described above, the massive exposure to facts gave a working knowledge of what actually happened in the holocaust, how communities are recuperating, and what needs to be done to prevent a recurrence. Above all, this educational phase of the European tour acquainted me with the functional arms of the U.J.A. and the nature of their work. Again, this was a matter of piercing the insulation of the American Jew by putting names like Egon Fink, Zvi Garci, and Dodo Cohen behind the initials J.D.C. and J.A. It is easy to overdramatize the work of these men, but to say they are totally dedicated is no exaggeration.

2

In spite of the emotional and educational fullness of the European tour, I felt a nagging deficiency throughout these 2 & 1/2 weeks. Although I felt deeply about what we had seen, my outrage was at crimes against humans, not because they were specifically Jews. In short, I felt no identification with the "suffering Jew". This deficiency was remedied in the Israeli portion of the trip.

My reactions during the tour through Israel were varied. Initially, I was very excited to be there because of all I had heard from family and friends. I was anxious to see what it was all about and why this place was such a magnet for Jews. The effect of Israel on me can be summed up by saying it tied up the loose ends of the European tour. After witnessing the way Jews handle their own country, I found something to identify with and could finally feel myself to be a "member". The overriding concern on the part of the government for the psychological welfare of the individual, in a sense, opened up the whole character of the Jew to me. Within the span of a few days all the pieces fell into place. The combined vocational-academic high school in Dimona and the philosophy of the Malben institute in Tel Aviv typified the ingrained humanitarianism and sensitivity which can only be acquired through the type of suffering sustained by the Jews. From this point on, I began to take a personal pride in Israel and its accomplishments. By the end of the trip, this feeling was generalized to a pride in all Jewish culture and heritage.

The feeling is new to me and is still developing, but I sense that it will ultimately manifest itself in a commitment to Israel and my community.

I no longer feel only a detached admiration for agency workers, but now have an understanding of why and for what they work. Most important, I have acquired a desire to contribute my own time and efforts.

Critique of the Itinerary with Recommendations

Generally, I feel the program was excellently planned. The sequence of emotions I experienced was no accident, but a product of careful anticipation of the mission designers.

I would make only minor changes in the European tour since the format of emotional impact was of definite value. Less time in Vienna and more in Geneva would be appropriate as long as the German aspect is still stressed. I mention Geneva because I found the session with J.D.C. officials very instructive. The trips to Eisenstat, the Salzburg mines, and Berchtesgaden were excellent and should be retained in the itinerary. Generally, the seminars and discussions were good, but it might be of value to break down into smaller groups when meeting with foreign students. Visits to the sites of the camps should definitely remain on the agenda. Possibly a stay in Marseilles to meet Moroccan immigrants would be of value.

In Israel, much could have been omitted. Although such spots as Safed, Tiberias, Kfar Ruppin, and the Golan Heights are important, several days spent in the Galilee could have been deleted. The stay in Eilat was unnecessary and weakened enthusiasm for the trip. Too much time was allotted to the stay in Tel Aviv and it was here that the trip began to drag. However, time cut from this area should not be at the expense of a day trip to Caesaria.

4

The stay in Beersheba could be enriched if timed to coincide with a Bedouin festival. The trip to El Arish should remain in the itinerary if possible. I think the idea of ending the Israeli tour in Jerusalem should be retained. However, all program should be omitted from this stay. By this time, my mind was supersaturated and touring detracted rather than added to the general impression.

The short stay in England was a good idea because it provided a welcome rest period and a chance for the past two month's impressions to settle to some small degree.

On the question of mandatory attendance to all of the mission functions, I would disagree with the 1968 policy. An individual whose presence is forced, will be disruptive or disenchanted with the trip. At any rate, he will not receive or contribute, regardless of the potential benefit of the activity.

Accommodations in all cases should be nearer the points of interest of the city stayed in. This condition should exist even at the expense of more luxurious housing.

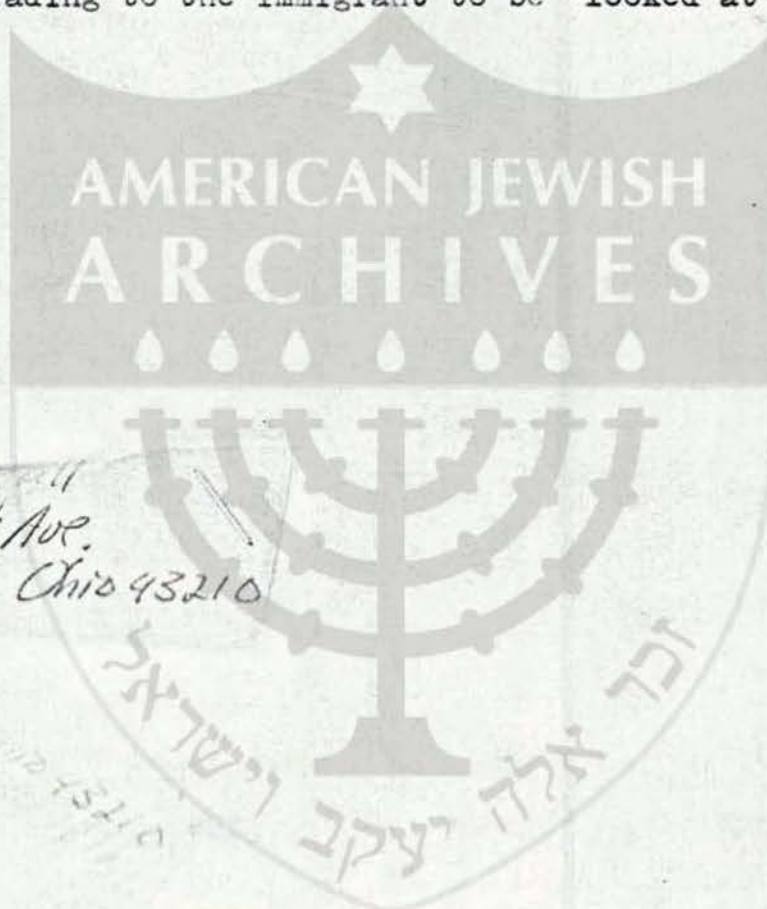
All social events should be omitted. If the time were given to free activity, social functions could be carried out on an individual level, and the failures of parties would be avoided.

I do not feel that girls should be members of the study mission. One of the most valuable parts of the trip is the close friendships formed between the boys. The relative closeness of the group is important for morale and cooperation in a trip of this length. The presence of girls might make the trip more fun, but it would be at the expense of comradery.

Finally, touring would be more rewarding if the mission member had some at-hand source of fact (history, data, biography) background.

I realize the tremendous amount of work involved, but a booklet with a thumbnail sketch of each site visited would be of immense value while touring.

One afterthought: tours of development towns should not include visits of 30 boys to the home of one immigrant. I found this personally embarrassing as a mission member, and I'm sure it was degrading to the immigrant to be "looked at".



11th Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43210

11th Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43210

September 9, 1968

Dear Rabbi Friedman,

S.P.

It gives me great pleasure to write and tell you about some of my reactions to the experiences of this summer. I can see that this summer will not go down as a past experience, but will live with me and determine many of my future activities and decisions.

My slides came out remarkably well. And to my amazement, I remembered every one. My guests are even more amazed. Two of my slides are especially worthy of attention. I took a picture in the Upper Galilee looking into the sun. The picture came out with a six-pointed sun — only in Israel. On last night in Jerusalem I took a picture of the moon rising. The moon was gold and luminated the valley with its gold color. Jerusalem of gold is no longer a dream.

Last night was a very sad one for me. A girl friend of mine married a catholic boy. But, what is worse is that her three siblings also were going steady with non-Jews. And it isn't even their fault because they were never taught anything different. Hitler's work done by Jews is very sad to see. We must all do something to help

these people and ourselves. And yet, it is so difficult to kindle the interest in Judaism in Jews that hardly have any wood left.

I was fortunate to have several discussions with Norman on the trip and he gave me some ideas for next summer. He told me of a JOC program for work in Geneva and Europe. I am very much interested in working for JOC in Europe and the Jewish Agency in Israel. Can you please tell me how to go about arranging this.

Thank you again for your help and inspiration.

Martin Manvil

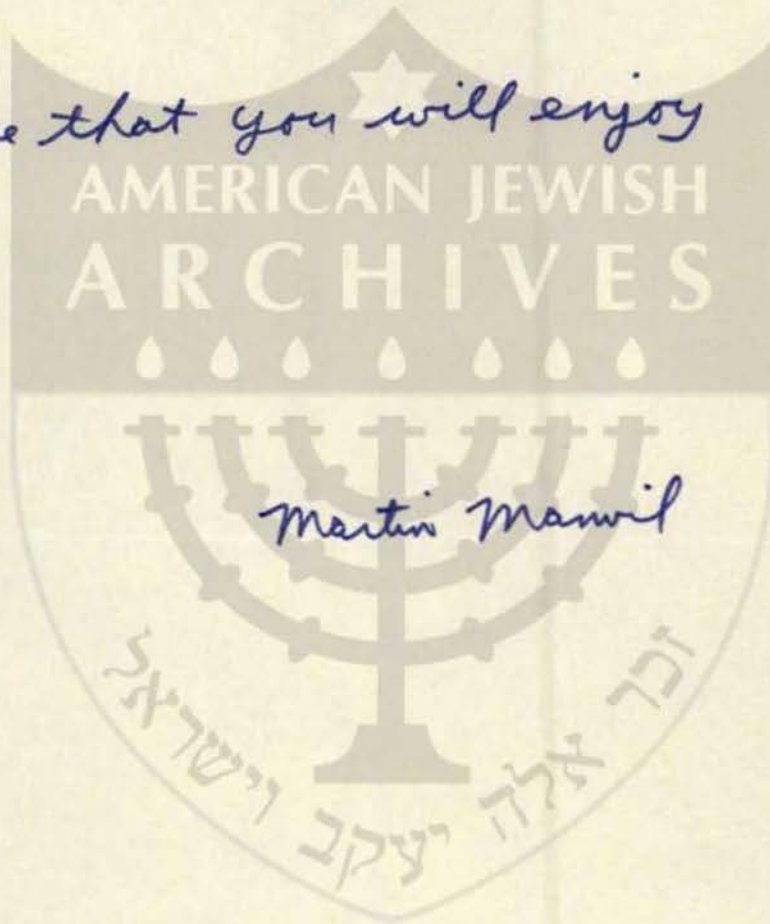
I am in favor of having girls on the next mission.

September 24, 1968

Dear Rabbi Friedman,

This is a piece of some of the writing I have done the past few weeks.

I hope that you will enjoy it.



LAND OF FIRE

Israel, Oh, Israel, small, barren, hot, unbearably hot, not even plants grow on some of your best land and ludicrous it is to expect me to live there. In all the world it would be hard to find a more unsuitable place for a Promised Land.

Are you certain God did not mix up your prayers? You call this place a fertile crescent? Fertile for what? Rocks? Sand? You don't need farmers, you need rock splitters.

How could your people die for this place? Why? Why did you do it? Do people fight for Hell? A Jew would if it could be called his own land.

Your people, the unwanted of the Earth, no one would take them, not even their Promised Land. To burn in an oven or under the golden sun, a choice the Jew had to make - without thinking. He fought and won the fertile oven of the Earth.

A barren land, an unwanted people, and look what you have done!

Your people are happy, proud, full of love. The Burning Bush, a minor miracle compared to this. A rock giving water, a miracle three thousand years ago; a fact today. Your people brought life to the land that gave them their life. Your people love on the land that taught them how to love. Your people help each other on the land that taught them why to help. Your people help the world on the land where the world started. Your people's love for each other is more than a law, it is a fact and necessity of life. But then, they must love for the six million who can't ever love again.

A people who have fought harder for
a land cannot be found. Tears,
blood and sweat each person gave
more than his share so that
others could live here in peace.
All that, and they want to share
it with me!

The land of the ineffable Israel is.
Your Hula Valley, a breathtaking
sight which once raised mosquitoes,
now grows Angels.

Safad, an old quiet city gives the
artist a world to paint at his doorstep.

At Mt. Tabor, "Awake, Deborah, Awake!"

Oh Ye Mountains of Gilboa, let neither
rain nor dew fall upon you where
Saul and Jonathan were slain. Your
plants grow well with the blood
of Kings!

Eilat, boy are you hot! Sitting at
the Southern tip of Israel, instead of
appearing to be the end of the country,
you seem like the beginning. Staring
out into the Red Sea on a blistering
hot day, you showed me the road
to Heaven atop your misty, blue-green
path.

Jerusalem of gold, forgive me for describing
you. Your gold facades do not glitter
in the sun; that is reserved for your
people. Your Western Wall will not
erode from the rain and the wind,
but from fingers, tears and kisses.

A land where Heaven and Hell meet and raise Angels;
where the sun has six points; where the
moon is gold.

Oh eternal light of the world, let neither war
nor peace, rain nor sun, hate nor love, dim your
flame. You are the only light with water for
fuel. Burn, baby, burn.

Richard Yenoff, UJA Mission Participant

Richard Yenoff, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lechtner, recently returned to Erie from a United Jewish Appeal-sponsored Study Mission of twenty-eight American University students. The mission is part of a UJA leadership development program. The itinerary included visits to Paris, Marseilles, Geneva, Munich, Berlin (East and West) and London during a two week period and a month in Israel. The Mission is limited to young men who have leadership potential and would benefit from the exposure to the rich and meaningful program that the Mission provides—meetings with the Jewish leadership of places visited, dialogues with Jewish students, and an intensive study of every phase of life in Israel. Of primary importance on the Mission was an introduction to the overseas operations of UJA supported agencies in order to provide potential leadership with an appreciation and deep understanding of the on-going necessity for continued support by American Jewry.

RICK RELATES IMPRESSIONS

At the invitation of COUNCIL NEWS Rick briefly described some of the impressions he received during the Mission: "Our first stop was Vienna, Austria, where the group met incoming Polish refugees at the train station. These people were much different from what one might expect. Being an American Jew living in a comfortable home and

enjoying the company of Jewish and Christian friends alike. I found these people courageous. I could not imagine myself packing a suitcase and boarding the first ship to Israel. I could not imagine my father packing one suitcase containing all worldly possessions, handing his money over to the government, leaving his business and friends behind and boarding a ship to Israel. After spending the afternoon at a rest camp with these people, I found them courageous for a different reason. I realized that material things became unimportant to a man who is fired from his job, or to the student who is dismissed from his university because he is a Jew. He suddenly becomes a Zionist. These people were courageous because they applied for visas which made them even more vulnerable to persecution.

From Vienna our group was flown to Germany. We visited the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau, traced the rise of Hitlerism at Munich, Berlin and Berchtesgarden. We were briefed on the history of the extermination of the "Six-Million Jews" while meeting survivors of the holocaust along the way. In a country where thousands of helpless Jews were slaughtered, I was enjoying the countryside, visiting its night-clubs, advanced museums and viewing its beautiful girls. Germany still suffers. It now has no more than a handful of Jews among its population, a people who contributed so much to the German culture before the war.

On our comparatively long flight to Israel we had time to think about what we had just experienced. We were all depress-

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued from Page 2)

ed and frustrated at this point. The first place we visited on our arrival in Israel was the Aliyah Bet boat in Haifa. We were given an explanation of this great migration of immigrants by its founders while sitting in a boat that meant freedom to 600 Jews. These people were not only fired from their jobs and expelled from their universities for being Jewish but would have been tortured, gassed and cremated for the same reason had they not escaped in time. These people, and others like them, with their children built the state of Israel. Their children, many of them born in Israel, are a type of Jew not known to the world since biblical times.

The rest of the trip was spent learning the domestic and foreign problems of Israel which are many but after meeting these optimistic, naturally arrogant people, I cannot help being optimistic myself. Israel consists of a two-and-a-half million people while in the United States there are cities with two-and-a-half million. And yet with this small population in Israel a whole country is run, three wars in twenty years have been fought against overwhelming odds and won and this young nation finds it possible to send help to underdeveloped countries.

What we have in common with a Polish refugee is not only religion, but that what happened to him could also happen to us. Although it is inconceivable now, I cannot help remembering survivors of the Holocaust telling of how they thought it inconceivable that the destruction of European Jewry could take place.

I can only express great admiration and respect for the spirit of self-sacrifice and determination on the part of her people to maintain Israel's freedom. People today are forced to

leave their countries because they are Jews. Israel is the only country which will admit people because they are Jews. I now understand more than ever why Israel must live.

LOCAL COLLEGE STUDENT VISITS ISRAEL

Steven Seiden of Tenafly, a member of one of our local families strongly identified with Israel and all Jewish causes, visited Israel this summer as a member of the U.J.A. University Study Mission. His letter is printed below in its entirety.

We would like reactions to this letter, particularly from college students. Won't you send it to your son or daughter and ask for comments? They will be forwarded to Steve.

It is our hope that Steve and other college students will come together during their winter vacations to discuss some of their reactions to his comments.

This past summer I was a member of the United Jewish Appeal University Study Mission to parts of Europe and Israel. Our purpose was to study contemporary history of the Jews and to study the present problems of Israel and Jews all over the world.

We first went to Vienna to study the immigration of Jews from countries where they were being persecuted. The only hope that these people had was the fulfillment of their dream of going home to Israel. For the first time I really learned what anti-semitism meant. For students it meant not being allowed to continue school or to work. For the working man whether he was a professional or not it meant being dismissed without a reason. There was only one similarity among all of these people; they were all Jews, and for that reason only, their livelihood was taken away. Outside of Vienna we went to Mauthausen to see a concentration camp with our own eyes so that we would remember the crimes committed against our brothers and would never allow it to happen again.

Our next stop was Germany for the purpose of studying Hitler's rise to power. We visited East and West Berlin, and Munich retracing Hitler's steps. Outside of Munich we saw Hitler's favorite concentration camp Dachau. Unlike Mauthausen this camp had been reconstructed. Shortly after leaving the camp we discussed the reason for reconditioning the barracks to a modern and livable state. Part of the group felt that it was an oversight of the builders, while the rest felt that the Germans did it intentionally wanting to cover up the story of the poor living conditions. I agreed with the second group basing my decision on many other impressions that I received while in Germany. We also visited Hitler's Eagle's Nest at Berchtesgarden

which was another one of Hitler's favorite places.

Our next stop was J.D.C.'s and U.H.I.A.S.'s headquarters in Geneva for the purpose of seeing and being briefed on their activities. We were told of the many problems facing Jews all over the world, and how "Joint" was trying to solve them. Immigration and the financing of all of "Joints" activities were explained in great detail.

We then proceeded to Israel. The immigration story was finished when we visited the immigrants in their new homes. In five weeks we studied Israel comprehensively, her problems, and the means of solving them.

Security is one of Israel's greatest problems. We traveled on many of the border roads which are as close as one half a meter from the border. We talked to people who live on the border, for example Kibbutz Kufar Ruppim located on the Jordanian Border. They are shelled very frequently and as a result the children sleep in a bomb shelter while cement roofs on their homes are being completed. This is only one phase of our study of Israel's Security.

We studied all of Israel's internal problems with the Arabs as well as her external problems. Politically, there is a great problem. If the Arabs and the Jews keep reproducing at the present rate Israel in a generation and a half will be an Arab state. The many possible solutions and their repercussions were discussed at great length.

These are two of the many problems that we covered. Since Israel is a young country, it is very important for my generation to identify with the Israelis. In Israel there is no such thing as income tax evasion or draft dodger. The country and her people are too nationalistic-oriented to allow anything of this sort to exist. While it is hard to get to really know an Israeli, once you do, an Israeli will do for you anything you ask of him.

As Jews we must help Israel maintain her strength. Who knows when one day there may be discrimination in the United States or in other free countries. We and our brothers will be forced to leave our homes. No one in the world worries about the fate of the Jews, except other Jews. Helping Israel is the only way we can maintain a home for Jews from all over the world. Israel is our only real home, we must protect her at all costs, for only she will never let us down.

LOCAL BOYS REPORT ON "U MISSION"

Two local young men, university students, were part of a 28 person University Study Mission sponsored by the UJA this summer, covering two weeks in Europe, five weeks in Israel. The story below, by Dan Levinson, a sophomore at Northwestern, is supplemented by pictures taken by Marvin Pearlstein, a sophomore at Washington U. in St. Louis. The trips were paid for by parents of the students participating. According to the UJA, few of the young men had previously displayed interest in the need of Israel or other Jewish philanthropic causes, but "it was a different breed of young man that returned home at the end of the summer."

During the night, the blaring dual-tone police siren brings a shudder; and for an instant we share the fear of German Jews thirty years before; a vision of Gestapo agents on a midnight raid chills our bodies.

To those of us who never experienced Nazi terror, that special siren, whose sound has become familiar through old WW II movies on television, screeching through the streets of Munich in 1968, recreates it more realistically than any book or film ever can. As part of a UJA study mission, I was touring Europe and Israel, tracing the near-extirmination of the Jewish people and the rebirth of the Jewish State. Although we were thrilled at the prospect of seeing Europe, the tragedy of European Jewry hovered constantly and near.

The beer halls of Munich were still filled with the raucous atmosphere that once presented Adolph Hitler with a forum — to preach hate that could sweep from the burgbraukellers to the streets. We crossed the bridge where Hitler brazenly bluffed the city's defenders, and stood outside the Hall of the Generals, and listened intently to the recounting of how Hitler's putsch was stopped there. (All this, of course, in the '20's, before he came to power.)

In Berlin the destruction he brought about is still seen in the hulks of razed buildings standing amidst the modern city, as misplaced as Dorothy's house, lifted in fantasy to the land of Oz. The Brandenburg Gate, once the symbol of an empire, is sealed from the West by a wall which exposes the extent of Hitler's failure to found a thousand year Reich. In East Berlin we cautiously explored one synagogue spared by the Holocaust. It survived Krystal Nacht because it was surrounded by a boarding school. Today it is tended by a dying community, as only a handful of German Jews have returned to their "home."

At Berchtesgaden, Hitler's Bavarian retreat, we swelled with the majesty, awed by the beauty of the Alps. But just as when walking through the twisting streets of Munich, the spectre of the past never left us. Through UJA Executive Vice President Herb Friedman's vivid recollections, the security mood was revived, and the spots where Goering, Himmler, and Bormann lived with their Fuhrer were burned into our memory. But still, we wondered how anyone could dream of destruction in such a setting.



And the quiet beauty of Southern Germany was there, just a few miles outside Munich, where the Nazis unveiled the first concentration camp, Dachau. I fingered the stones of the courtyard, where the prisoners often stood at attention for hours, and stared at the first experimental gas chamber that fathered so many others. Although the West German Government has rebuilt one of the barracks, giving it the guileless appearance of a summer camp building, the guard towers, barbed wire, and ovens still remain, unmasking the truth of its history.

In Austria the past was belied by the lush countryside. The countless cemeteries we passed on the trip into Vienna served as a reminder that Austria stood for the destruction of Jews, as well as the Danube River, Salzburg Festival, and Hapsburg Empire. This death was administered in what one of the tour members called, "The best picnic spot in the world."

Just as many Austrians claimed to have "fought on the Eastern front," when confronted by Americans, few would acknowledge that they knew of Camp Mauthausen's existence, only a few hours from one of the most magnificent cities in the world, Vienna. Climbing the same jagged steps that the SS forced their prisoners to run while carrying boulders, and gazing many feet into a placid pool, once filled with bodies, stripped away the smugness and insulation that had enveloped at least these

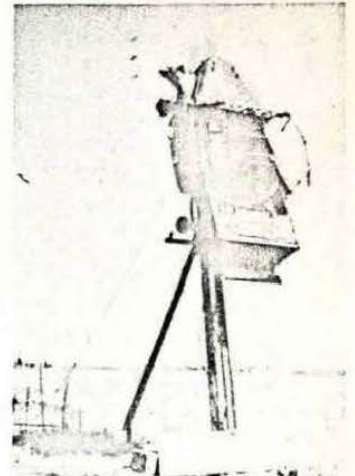
American Jews.

At Eisenstadt an eighty year old man, last Jew in the town, wept openly when we gave him small donations to help preserve the town's ancient synagogue. But where in Europe could any of this be preserved for long?

In Israel the warmth which had been extended to us by European Jews was augmented by a challenge, for there it is not enough just to be a Jew. These are a people with a fierce loyalty, and they are above all Israelis.

And this is how it should be.

The Eagle's Nest, at Berchtesgaden, Hitler's mountain retreat in the Bavarian Alps. "Indescribably beautiful — too beautiful to plot war there" — say our boys.



"To Damascus with love" says this sign below a wrecked car on the Golan Heights. Israeli troops fashioned this grim direction marker.

We stop at a frontier settlement, almost within sight of the Lebanese border. A young couple, who have chosen to live there to shore up the border, keep a rifle handy, but express a contentment that is seldom seen in America. And I could not understand these feelings until I had seen Jerusalem.

Frank Gervasi quotes an old Hebrew proverb in "The Case For Israel," "Ten measures of beauty came into the world," it reads; "Jerusalem received nine measures, and the rest of the world one."

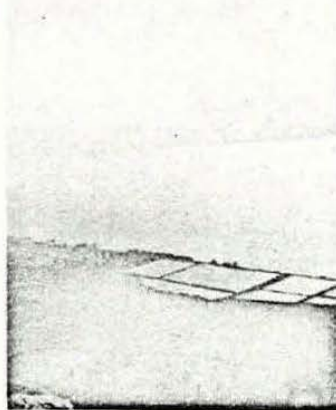
There is a majesty there, a dignity that extends beyond the Wall, Mosque of Omar, the Holy Sepulchre, but encompasses them all. Jerusalem seems eternally the center of the world, the cradle of life. It is as if from this city the Israelis draw the strength to sleep under hostile Arab noses, or dare to build a country out of sand and rock.

And no people have ever had greater inspiration to build a country than this city provides, as it once again becomes the crowning jewel of that land.

Cannon eye's view - Syrian - from the Golan Heights - looking down on fields of Israel's Ein Gev on Lake Tiberias. Fortunately, the Heights are now in Israel's hands.

American Jews aren't helping to transfer a ghetto, but to build a nation . . . or rather, rebuild one. For everywhere there are reminders of David, Solomon, Deborah, Herod and Titus. Israel is a living storybook, with perhaps the greatest chapters yet to be written.

Whether in mystical Safed, beautiful Haifa, or bustling Tel Aviv, the incongruities of Israel's Middle East origin, and Western accomplishments stretched before us. The Kennedy Forest, desert towns like Dimona and Arad, the paved roads twisting toward Dan in the North and El Arish in the South, all were parts of a growing nation carved in land that has been wasting for centuries.



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