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## MEMORANDUM

*Date* February 6, 1975

*To* Mr. Irving Bernstein

*From* Rabbi Earl A. Jordan

*Subject* FACULTY ADVISORY CABINET MISSION TO ISRAEL, JANUARY 2 TO 15, 1975

### I. Participants

Chairman Marshall Goldman; Prof. and Mrs. Benjamin Chinitz with their son, Michael; Prof. Sydney Bernard; Prof. Jeanette Eisler; Prof. Rhoda Freeman and her husband, Robert; Prof. and Mrs. Jack Goodstein; Prof. Linda B. Miller.

The recruitment of participants was done only through a mailing to our own Faculty Cabinet. Since we had established that Faculty members would receive approximately one-third subsidy, we did not go after recruitment outside of our own number. We wanted to include in the mission only committed people.

The cost of the mission was \$795 for spouses of Faculty members and \$530 for members of the FAC. In order to keep the cost of the mission down, meals were taken only as necessary with very few dinners, and accommodations were always in first-class rather than de luxe hotels. If anything, the \$795 figure was a generous one. I believe that the actual cost of the mission, when it is computed, will come in at significantly less than that.

### II. Planning for the Mission

After discussing with Prof. Goldman and one or two others exactly what our goals for the mission were, we decided to focus our attention on three problems: the social gap, the geo-political situation, and the economic situation. We then wanted to find the very best people with whom to meet in order to come to a full and complete understanding of these three aspects of Israeli life.

I spoke at length with each of our Faculty participants to determine the contacts that they had in Israel and to derive from them any suggestions that they might have. I also met with people on our own staff; meetings,

incidentally, which I found least helpful.

I conceived the program after a meeting with Harry Rosen during his visit to the United States. Harry was the one who suggested in broadest outline form, and then in great detail, the people with whom we should meet and the places that we should see. I then translated the notes of my meeting with Harry into a memorandum which was sent through Howard Stone to Chaim for implementation. The Israel office, Chaim especially, with the help of Rafi and the PR Department, did a magnificent job and they were able to give me approximately 90 percent of what I had requested.

### III. The Itinerary

We left New York on Thursday, January 2, via Swiss Air because El Al was on strike. It was necessary to change planes in Zurich, and because of strict security, we were delayed. We arrived in Israel exhausted. We went to our hotel to freshen up and have dinner. Later that evening, I took the entire group to the Western Wall. Our scheduled meeting with Mr. Aharon Kidon was cancelled because of our late arrival.

Saturday, January 4. The morning began with a tour of the Old City with Dr. Zeev Vilnai. He was superb. (I carried with me a tape recorder and recorded Mr. Vilnai's presentation. Another member of our party, Prof. Bernard, also carried a tape recorder. Between us we managed to tape all of the presentations made, even those on the bus. A full set of transcripts is available and attached to this memorandum.)

Late Saturday afternoon, we met with Dr. Chaim Adler, Director of the Research Center for Education of Underprivileged Children of the Hebrew University. Dr. Adler is a sociologist, and our meeting with him was also very helpful. (I would not recommend Dr. Adler for non-academic groups, since he tended to be rather dry and his English was not very good. He was excellent with my group, however.)

Saturday evening, we visited the home of upper-class Sephardi families who had immigrated to Israel in the early fifties from Iraq. The meeting with these people, all of whom were professionals, was a revelation. In fact, it helped us to break the initial stereotype that all of us had: that Sephardim are all poor and oppressed.

Sunday, January 5. We began our program at the Yad Vashem by meeting with Mr. Shalmi Barmore, a doctoral candidate under Yehuda Bauer. Shalmi has spoken to several groups which I had led and I requested him specifically. He was brilliant as usual. We then visited the Military Cemetery, and later that day returned to the Old City for an extensive tour of the excavations around the Southern Wall of the Temple Mount. This was particularly attractive to my academics who found, with their own eyes, evidence that refuted the claims of the Arabs that the Jews were destroying artifacts. It was a very good session.

Late that afternoon we met with Dr. Ronnie Medzini who was open, candid and who had contact with some of my Faculty people before. Ronnie was brilliant; he was articulate and he was very, very helpful to the group and making them understand the broadest picture.

Monday, January 6. We visited Kiryat Arba and were entertained by Mrs. Levinger, the wife of Rabbi Levinger, the leader of the settlers of Hebron. Mrs. Levinger is a bit of a fanatic, but she was very convincing and she was articulate and impressive. Lunch was at Kiryat Moriah with Morrele Baron and several youth workers from the municipality of Jerusalem. It was also a worthwhile experience.

Following the presentation of Morrele, we toured Katamon "Tet" with the youth workers who work there. This was a very good experience.

The evening of Monday, we were invited to take cocktails at the home of Zelig Chinitz. My people found that experience most enlightening. Zelig had invited several academics and upper middle class families in Jerusalem society. There was a very lively discussion that revolved around the right of American Jews to come and give suggestions. Again, there was candor and honesty, and while some feathers may have been ruffled, I think that it was worthwhile, and we are grateful to Zelig for hosting it.

Tuesday, January 7. We had breakfast with Prof. Naomi Kies, Professor of Sociology at the Hebrew University. She was deeply involved with the Black Panthers. She is an American "olah" who is a typical liberal; bright, socially-aware person. She was very much on the same wavelength as my Faculty people.

Following her presentation at breakfast, we went with the Director of Youth Services for the Municipality of Jerusalem, Josef M'uchas, to view some of the projects in Nachla'ot. This, too, was a very well executed program. We then returned to the Hebrew University campus where we had lunch with Dr. Galia Golan, a professor of Political Science and a brilliant woman. Her analysis of the geo-political situation impressed everyone, including the political scientists in our group. We were to have met with two other faculty members but they were either in the Reserves or otherwise unavailable. (Either Dr. Kies or Dr. Golan would be excellent people to invite to address any UJA mission. I have the feeling that they are able to perceive the nature of the group to which they are speaking and can moderate their remarks so that they are appropriate.)

Wednesday, January 8. We departed Jerusalem for the north, visited the Allenby Bridge, stopped at the Golan Heights and had lunch with soldiers there. It happened that when we arrived an army entertainment group was giving a show. We were invited to attend and it was one of the most moving experiences of our trip. The soldiers huddled together in a

damp, dark cement "hole" listening to four kids sing songs in Hebrew and English to them. They moved over to make room for us, offering us cigarettes, and welcoming us as much as they were welcoming the entertainment troupe. We ate in the mess hall with the soldiers, and while a special VIP table had been arranged, none of our people chose to sit at it. Instead they mingled freely with the soldiers and everyone found a way of communicating. The briefing on the military situation at that base also was greatly helpful.

The highlight of our day came when we went to Safed and met with Dr. Louis Shiffrin, an American orthopedist who is an "oleh." He was candid and he spoke to us of the problems of medicine in Israel, especially the problems that he confronted post-Yom Kippur 1973. (Dr. Shiffrin was a very competent professional, and his no-nonsense approach, tempered by his openness and willingness to talk, made him a very moving speaker.) We then went on to Haifa.

Thursday, January 9. We began the day by meeting with Dr. Herbert (Chanoch) Smith, who is the advisor in development town policy to the Committee of Ministers on Development Towns. He was recommended to us by Harry Rosen. The theme of the day was "Development Towns" and it was our intention, after a briefing by Smith in the morning, to visit both the successful development town and one that was in trouble. The problematic development town that we visited was Shlomi, a place that had never been visited by a UJA group. We were given a marvelous reception by the mayor and his staff, including home baked Moroccan delicacies and Moroccan tea. The warmth that this food represented was a very important part of our visit to that town. It is a lovely place and the people there were most receptive to our visit. They, too, were open and very much concerned with the future of their town.

After lunch in Nahariya, we drove to Migdal Ha'emek, a so-called successful development town and we heard the story there. By contrasting the two and by drawing the obvious conclusions, we were able to see the elements that make one development town a success and the other a catastrophe.

That evening, we returned to the hotel and we had dinner with Dr. Eliezer Rafaeli, the President of Haifa University, and Prof. Gaby Ben-Dor, a Professor of Political Science. Rafaeli invited himself and made little contribution to the discussion, even though he dominated it. Gaby Ben-Dor was brilliant and impressed all of my academics.

Friday, January 10. We visited the Marcus School of Education, a school for semi-literate Israeli soldiers. Our group was divided into subgroups, each of which went into a classroom to watch the instruction. We were also briefed much too long on the whole school. The experience, because of the visits to the classrooms, was a very worthwhile one.

We went from Haifa to Pardes Hanna where we met with Harold Trobe and toured the Malben installation there.

We drove from Malben to Caesarea where we ate lunch at the Dan Caesarea and held our first evaluation session. It was at that session that the question of giving was first raised. Marshall felt that it was necessary to walk very slowly with our Faculty people and to make our solicitation in as subtle a way as possible. We therefore did not press the question at what might have been a caucus. We then proceeded to the Country Club in Tel Aviv where the group was given both Friday evening and Saturday free. By this time, each member of the group had been able to contact friends and professional acquaintances in Israel, and had arranged to do something on his own for Shabat.

Sunday, January 12. We departed for the Gaza Strip and Sinai. At the juncture of the road that led into the Gaza Strip, we were met by an Israeli Army officer who was to be our guide through the Strip. It turned out that I knew him from a speaking tour that he had made to the United States. It was Col. Shmuel Liran, a man who had been to this country two years ago and whom I had taken to a University Students weekend. It was like meeting an old friend, and he was the perfect person to speak to our professors. Col. Liran was in charge of education for the Gaza Strip before the Yom Kippur War and after the Yom Kippur War, he was the liaison officer with all of the outside organizations like the United Nations, the Red Cross, etc. His explanation of the Gaza Strip was brilliant and made the point intended. We proceeded through the Gaza Strip to Sadot where we met with Jean, an American "olah" resident in Sadot. We ate lunch at the community building in Sadot and we returned from there to Tel Aviv where we met with the Chairman of the Department of Economics at Tel Aviv University, Prof. Assaf Razin. This was an extra meeting that was not included on the original itinerary. Dr. Razin was excellent and his presentation, because we had two economists on our mission, was most appropriate.

On Monday morning, January 13, the group departed for Beersheba to visit an Absorption Center and to visit with Ben Gurion University faculty. That day, I left the group and went to Teheran to meet with the Rabbinical group that left New York the day before. Everything that I have heard from the participants in our mission about the two days that I missed -- Monday, January 13 and Tuesday, January 14 -- was excellent. They continued their discussions with Murray Grant from Koor Industries, who was most impressive. They met at least one Russian academician who was an expert in American literature. Their meetings on Tuesday with Dr. Itamar Ravinovitz from the Shiloach Institute and with Dr. Asher Arian were both supposed to have been excellent.

#### IV. Evaluation

Originally I had regretted that the group was so small because the program that we developed was such a good one that it seemed a shame to waste it on too few people. As the program evolved, however, it became

increasingly clear that the experiences that we were having would not have been the same had our group been any larger. This was expressed over and over by people who participated in the mission. I believe that our original policy of recruiting only "turned on" faculty on whom we can count was a wise one. The only other alternative form of recruitment for a Faculty Mission would be to appoint a committee of our own Faculty Cabinet to interview each applicant and to do as wide a mailing as possible announcing the next mission. This is the procedure that my Steering Committee agreed upon at its last meeting following the mission.

The question of subsidy is one that remains problematic. Academics are just not like other people and their funds are limited. At the same time they are very critical of wasting UJA money. They have the notion that if they are given a stipend, even a partial subsidy for a UJA mission, something must be asked of them. It is clear that they must be involved following their participation in a mission to give them the sense that they have not "ripped off" the United Jewish Appeal but that rather an investment in them has been made. Plans are now being implemented to utilize the people who participated in this first mission. I think though that it is terribly important for us to remember that any subsidies that we offer for future missions should be offered with the clear understanding that participants are expected to make a gift to the United Jewish Appeal, to be involved in their respective campus campaigns, and to make themselves available as speakers and resources for the United Jewish Appeal. This would not be a detriment but would rather enhance the dignity of the mission.

We found that when we tried to implement the program, faculty in Israel asked about the credentials of the American professors in our group. It is clear then that the number is not as important as the calibre of people who participate in our mission. I am convinced that any subsequent mission will be as large as we want it to be but we must be very careful to include major figures from top institutions so that the doors of Israeli academia will remain open to us.

It ought to be noted that our mission achieved a reputation even while we were in Israel. People were talking about us and were remarking about the high quality of academics that UJA was able to gather together for its mission. The American Jewish Committee had a Professors Mission one week prior to ours and clearly the people that were participating in that program were not nearly as good as ours.

Finally, it ought to be noted that almost all of our people have been in Israel at least twice or three times and that they are not new to the country. They have many friends and there was a constant struggle to keep the group together because of the attraction of their own connections. We should build into any mission sufficient time for people to go off on their own. It was impossible for us to do more than we did

because our schedule was so full, but I do think that it would be important for us to think in terms of a longer mission for University faculty. They are simply not prepared to accept a superficial treatment of the subjects that they are studying.

EAJ/cn

Attachment



UNITED JEWISH APPEAL  
FACULTY MISSION

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Moriah Hotel, Jerusalem 3/1 - 8/1/75  
Shulamit Hotel, Haifa 8/1 - 10/1.75  
Country Club, Tel Aviv 10/1 - 15/1/75

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Friday, January 3

Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport and transfer  
to Jerusalem

Attend Kabbalat Shabbat at the Western Wall

7:30 p.m.

Dinner at hotel with Mr. Aharon Kidan

Overnight Moriah Hotel

Saturday, January 4

8:00 a.m.

Breakfast

9:00 a.m.

Morning walk in the Old City, including the  
reconstructed Jewish Quarter and synagogues  
with Dr. Zeev Vilnai

Afternoon

F r e e

\*4:00

Dinner at hotel

After dinner visit with Middle Eastern families

Overnight Moriah Hotel

Sunday, January 5

7:30 a.m.

Breakfast

8:30 a.m.

Depart for Yad Vashem - meet with  
Mr. Shalmi Barmor

Visit the military cemetery

1:00 p.m.

Lunch at hotel

2:00 p.m.

Depart for visit of the Old City's archeological  
excavations

5:30 p.m.

Briefing with Dr. Meron Medzini, Director,  
Government Press Office, Jerusalem

Overnight Moriah Hotel

\* MEETING WITH DR. CHAIM ADLER, DIRECTOR,  
RESEARCH CENTER FOR EDUCATION OF UNDERPRIVILEGED  
CHILDREN, HEB. U.

FACULTY MISSION - page 2

Monday, January 6

8:00 a.m. Breakfast  
8:30 a.m. Depart for Kiryat Arba and Kfar Etzion  
12:30 p.m. Lunch at Kiryat Moriah with Mordechai Bar-On  
Head of WZO Youth and Hechalutz Dept.  
8:30 p.m. Cocktails at the home of Rabbi Zelig Chinitz  
Overnight Moriah Hotel

Tuesday, January 7

8:00 a.m. Breakfast and briefing  
9:00 a.m. An in-depth study of social gap problems  
with Dr. Naomi Kies  
12:15 p.m. Visit Hebrew University campus  
1:00 p.m. Lunch and panel with Dr. G. Golan,  
Dr. Y. Evron and Dr. G. Ofer  
~~4:30 p.m.~~ *KIDAN*  
7:30 p.m. Dinner free  
Overnight Moriah Hotel

Wednesday, January 8

6:30 a.m. Breakfast  
7:30 a.m. Depart hotel for the North  
8:15 a.m. Visit the Allenby Bridge and study the "Open  
Bridges" policy  
Visit the Golan Heights and lunch with soldiers  
Visit the Safed Hospital and meet with one  
of the physicians *DR. LOUIS SHIPRAN*  
Continue to Haifa  
Dinner at hotel  
Overnight Shulamit Hotel

FACULTY MISSION - page 3

Thursday, January 9

Full Day Study of Development Towns (Harry Peen)  
7:30 a.m. Breakfast and briefing  
8:30 a.m. Depart for Shlomi, a problematic development town  
9:30 a.m. Tour Shlomi  
12:00 noon Lunch in Nahariya at Palace Athena  
1:30 p.m. Arrive Migdal Haemek, a successful development town  
Return to Haifa  
7:30 p.m. Dinner with Dr. Eliezer Rafaeli, President, Haifa University, and professors from the Jewish-Arab Center  
Overnight Shulamit Hotel

Friday, January 10

7:30 a.m. Breakfast  
8:00 a.m. Depart for visit of Marcus School of Education, a project of the Israel Defense Forces  
10:30 a.m. Visit JDC/Malben Geriatrics Village in Pardess Hanna and meet with Mr. Harold Trobe, Director General Malben  
Lunch in Caesarea  
Dinner free  
Overnight Country Club

Saturday, January 11

F r e e

Overnight Country Club

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Sunday, January 12

7:00 a.m. Breakfast  
7:30 a.m. Depart for South (Liran?)  
Visit the Gaza Strip  
Visit Moshav Sadot in Northern Sinai  
Visit the new development town of Yamit  
Lunch enroute  
Return to Tel Aviv  
Dinner free  
Overnight Country Club

Monday, January 13

8:00 a.m. Breakfast  
9:00 a.m. Depart for Beer Sheba  
Visit an absorption center in Beer Sheba  
12:30 p.m. Arrival Ben Gurion University  
Lunch and briefing on the absorption of Russian academicians  
Meet with Russian academicians in Faculty Club  
Return to Tel Aviv  
7:30 p.m. Dinner with Mr. Murray Grant from Koor Industries  
Overnight Country Club

Tuesday, January 14

Morning free  
1:30 p.m. Depart for Tel Aviv University  
2:00 p.m. Meeting at the Shiloach Institute with Dr. Itamar Rabinovitz  
4:00 5:00 p.m. Meet with Dr. Asher Arian, Tel Aviv University  
Closing dinner  
Overnight Country Club

Wednesday, January 15

D e p a r t u r e