SPECIAL ISRAELI WAR ISSUE

Emergency Drive Brings In Millions In Aid; Prolonged Conflict Drains Israeli Resources

By HOWARD SCHRANZ

For most Jews, the past twenty-one days have been a harrowing period, with the cost of war threatening to severely strain the Israeli economy.

Even in peacetime the taxdrained Israelis can barely afford the cost of housing and absorbing new immigrants and financing their health, education, and welfare needs. Naturally, Israel now must turn to foreign benefactors, most of whom are the United State's six million Jews.

THE COMMENTATOR recently visited the crowded offices of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York at 220 West 58th St., the nation's most important collector of funds, to find out how they were doing. We learned that since the UJA had completed its regular 1973 campaign and begun its 1974 drive, none of the UJA's efforts outside Israel, such as aid to domestic hospitals and needy New York Jews, will drop. Some Jewish educational organizations, however, fear that many regular contributors will be reluctant to donate by the time the Mideast crisis is over.

When the hostilities began three weeks ago, the UJA decided to launch its supplementary Emergency Fund. Within 72 hours \$25 million had been collected. Since it takes at least

two weeks to collect data, officials are reluctant to estimate, even roughly, the sum of subsequent donations, although unofficial sources suggest that the proposed goal of \$100 million per week is being reached.

None of the tax-exempt contributions are used for military purposes, and checks earmarked for a new fighter or tank are promptly returned. "If we buy one bullet," a UJA spokesman explained, "Uncle Sam would close us down for tax evasion." Rather, the funds are used for a comprehensive assistance program to cope with the many problems created by war conditions, as well as the aggravated problems of immigration and social needs. Emergency funds are used to finance child care and housekeeping centers to permit an expanded female work force, hire social workers and psychologists to help retarded children cope with a war situation and buy trucks for kibbutzim whose own vehicles have been mobilized into service.

The bulk of the money seems to be coming in small amounts. The largest single contribution is \$250,000. Reports of million dollar sums, while true, are misleading, since each was pledged well in advance of the Day of Atonement by philanthropists who annually contribute that amount.

Although Gentiles, particularly those who resisted the Holocaust, are contributing heavily, the geographic distribution of contributors roughly follows a population density map of Jews, regardless of their denominational commitment.

Some contributions do not come as currency. The members of the sisterhood of a Detroit temple offered their personal jewelry, while two garment manfacturers have each shipped a truckload of dresses for the UJA to sell. According to UJA vice-(Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)



Paul Millman

A full mishmar learning for Israel,

The Commentator

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NO. 2

Jews Rally To Support Israel; Efforts Disturbed By Violence

By ROBERT KANTOWITZ

Since the start of the most recent war in the Middle East, an almost continuous series of rallies have been held in New York to show solidarity with the Israeli cause and to protest the actions of Arab governments. These rallies have been sponsored and attended by the entire spectrum of Jewish groups, from the establishment organizations to the militant Jewish Defense

The morning after Yom Kippur, Sunday, October 7, saw a demonstration of solidarity in front of the Israeli mission to the United Nations. Across the street, a picket line of about forty Arab supporters formed to demonstrate against Israel. As the pro-Israeli demonstrators shouted at the Arabs, twenty J.D.L. members wearing motorcycle helmets and wielding lengths of pipe burst from the crowd and violently attacked the Arab line, sending the pro-Arab demonstrators into disarray. Seven J.D.L. members and one Arab were taken into cus-

Thirty-five thousand Israeli supporters gathered in the afternoon in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza near the U.N. building. All four major mayoral candidates, as well as other prominent speakers, expressed support for Israel and a hope for peace.

Egyptian Mission Pelted

As the rally in the afternoon disbanded, 400 youngsters marched to the Egyptian mission. Shouting and cheering, they pelted the building with rocks, eggs, and bottles. The incident prompted police to cordon off the block to prevent a recurrence and forced John Scali, U.S. ambassador to the U.N., to apologize to the Arab occupants of the building for the incident.

On Monday, October 8, the J.D.L. staged a demonstration primarily in front of the Syrian

mission to the U.N. Its purpose, like that of the demonstration at the Egyptian mission the day before, was to protest Syrian and Egyptian aggression and inhumane treatment of prisoners of war.

On Tuesday night, there was another demonstration at the Syrian mission, followed by a march to the Israeli mission to demonstrate support of Israel and its policies. These rallies were, for the most part, well covered by the news media, especially by television.

75,000 Gather

After Yom Tov, on Sunday, October 14, approximately 75,000 people gathered for a citywide rally at City Hall Park. This rally had originally been scheduled (Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

YU Students And Alumni Donate To Israeli Effort

By JEFFREY STRASHUN

A war effort requires manpower and in a country the size of Israel this is even more acutely felt. Jews around the world realized this and, especially in America, volunteered to go and help in non-military work. Yeshiva upperclassmen and graduates are now in Israel contributing in different capacities.

At home, no sooner had two foreign transfer students begun their first semester at Yeshiva college, than they realized that their places were in Israel. They are Ephraim Fuchs, a JSS student from Amsterdam, Holland and Shimon Gruenbaum, who returned to his native Israel.

When the war broke out, approximately fifty YC upperclassment were preparing to begin (Continued on Page 4, Col. 5)

Miller Addresses Student Body; Fund Raising Drives Kicked Off

Faith, prayer,, and appeals for action were major topics as the joint SOY, JSS, and EMC Student Councils held an emergency solidarity rally for Israel on October 23.

Vice President of Student Council Mike Bergman, who served as Master of Cere-

monies, began the program with some remarks, then introduced Irv Gross, President of SOY, to lead in Tehillim. Michael Bloom, JSS Student Council President, followed with a prayer on behalf of the State of Israel.

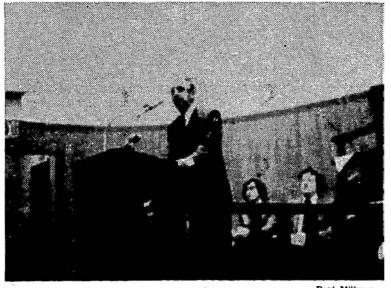
Rabbi Shlomo Riskin spoke on the importance of Emunah and the pledging of our physical as well as spiritual efforts toward Israel. He highlighted the significance of faith by citing the experiences of Rav Schwartzbart of Jerusalem who in spite of tragic family losses during the Holocaust and the 1967 War, nevertheless, maintained his faith. In following through with this theme, he related the Chassidic story of a barren woman who carried an empty carriage in trust that her prayers would be answered.

G-d has brought about the beginning of the ultimate redemption, Rabbi Riskin continued, by the re-establishment of Israel, but the final redemption "... depends on us and our actions... to respond to G-d's call." He emphasized that our responsibilities should consist of both aiding Israel with finances and physical efforts as well as learning Torah and doing t'shuva.

Rabbi Israel Miller, VP of Student Affairs and President of the American Zionist Foundation, then gave an account of the war and the possible future political situation in the Middle East. Although some people have expressed concern over Israel's possible compliance with UN Resolution 242, he firmly indicated this was a "Russian dictated resolution" and Israel's main position is negotiations before withdrawal. The United States was praised for its actions in the crisis. Rabbi Miller further emphhasized that Israel, being in advantageous military positions, accepted the cease-fire because its "goal is peace."

YCSC President Manny Ruchelsman followed with a charge to YU students to live up to their responsibilities through massive fund raising. He stated "Israel must live and we must keep it living" and went on to explain that this could only be accomplished through our economic efforts. In facilitating this effort, he announced that YU is commencing a campaign to raise \$25,000 for Israel by November 2nd and urged the importance of complying to this goal because of what the name YU implies.

Joseph Epstein, Editor of Hamevasar, followed with the Kel Molei Rachamim and the program was concluded with Hatikva.



Rabbi Israel Miller addressing the rally.

Fallen Heroes

It is with the deepest possible grief that we extend our condolences to all those who have lost their loved ones in this latest struggle to keep Israel alive. Our debt to those young martyrs is immeasurable, our loss at their leaving is immense. If our words here fall hopelessly short of expressing our bereavement at their passing, it is not due to lack of appreciation for their ultimate sacrifices on our behalf. It remains for us only to honor their memories by endeavoring to live up to the ideals and beliefs for which these soldiers so bravely laid down their lives.

Menesharim Kallu Umearayot Gaveru

You Can Help

There is an uncompromising lesson to be re-learned from the obscenely blatant anti-Jewishness exhibited at the United Nations; from the very civilized hypocrisy of self-proclaimed neutral nations such as Britain and France; and from the scattered but violent hostility towards Israel of leftist and not-so-leftist elements in America — We stand alone. May G-d bless America but when faced with the simple question of Jewish survival the Jew, wherever he is, can rely only on himself.

An enervating feeling of inadequacy often stifles our willingness to contribute what we can to save ourselves. After all, it is not we who are offering our lives nor, for the great majority of us, are we offering a few months of volunteer work in Israel. For most of us, our contribution up to this point has been mostly monetary. Even that contribution in light of the actual sum of money being called for, probably appears to many of us as an almost futile token gesture. The goals are so remote and the circumstances so removed that there is an

almost involuntary minimization of our own efforts on Israel's behalf. It is a false and dangerous attitude even when applied to individual contributions but patently inapplicable when measured against the concerted effort of an entire student body.

As a united and dedicated group, Yeshiva College has the ability to make an important contribution. Student Council, in coordination with the administration has, once again responded, presenting and organizing

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a variety of programs which, if strongly supported, can make a significant offering to the Israeli cause. THE COMMENTATOR cannot call strongly enough for the absolute support of every member of the student body for these programs. Many students are, undoubtedly, affiliated with other organizations sponsoring parallel drives for Israel. It must be understood, however, that only if each student lends his undivided support to the YCSC programs can they hope to achieve maximum efficiency. Two drives running concurrently must mitigate each other's productivity.

The theme of the drive, not surprisingly, is giving. If you've given already, give again. There is no donation too small. When the whole university is giving, eventually all coins and singles add up.

The following activities are being suggested and sponsored by the various student bodies and administration of Yeshiva University: First and foremost, contributions to the United Jewish Appeal Emergency Fund. A goal of 25,000 dollars to be collected and contributed by the Yeshiva community has been set.

- The obtaining of Israeli Bonds through the applications that are being distributed by the Student Council.
- 3) Letters to local congressmen urging their support of continued military and economic aid to Israel.
- 4) Partaking in the regular sessions of mishmar and tehillim.
- 5) Participation in the forthcoming speaking engagements, assemblies and seminars at YU.
- 6) Frequent attendance at the forthcoming local rallies and demonstrations.
- 7) Consulting the "YCSC Israeli Crisis Board" in Furst Hall.

From the Editor's Desk

Israel, Phase II



By NORMAN BLUMENTHAL

The recent tragic events in Israel mark the end of an era. Neither the sweeping swift victories of the Six Day War, the uncanny and infallible Israeli espionage; nor the hysterical and fear-ridden Arab soldier characterize the Milchemet Yom Ha'din. Not that the Israelis are weak or in any way defeated. Their ability to withstand and, at times, even turn back a force several times their size attests to this young country's remarkable spirit. Nevertheless, this war, inevitably, lacks the glory and splendor of the swift '67 rout.

This turn of events has little affected the stolid and confident Israelis. From all indications, the country has, typically, assumed its matter-of-fact, or, colloquially speaking, ein b'reira approach.

The question remains whether we, who are nowhere near the battlefront, can maintain our confidence and support. Can the pride and espirit de corps we derived from Israel's eclat perhaps dissipate in these more difficult times?

Until now, the American community's response indicates an eagerness to help even when the going's rough. We have displayed that our love for and commitment to Israel is a true one and not contingent on any ego-boosting rewards that we may get in return. This internally motivated commitment must be maintained to insure our maximum possible support for Israel.

Though always dependable and diligent, my governing board deserves special gratitude for the publication of this edition. A herculean effort was expended to put together this special supplement in the record time of two days. In addition, this issue is the first to be distributed to the Yeshiva University high schools. THE COMMENTATOR is now available throughout the entire institution.

GIVE...

Fights Disrupt Rallies As Jews Attempt To Demonstrate Solidarity

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 5)

as a Soviet Jewry support rally, but its nature was revised with the outbreak of fighting in the Mideast. The demonstration was held under the auspices of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry and the American Zionist Federation.

Fighting Erupts

Near the close of the rally, a brief melee erupted as hundreds of pro-Israelis managed to circumvent police lines and attacked about sixty Arab sympathizers across Park Row. Two small firecrackers exploded and both sides threw rocks. Police averted a major confrontation by hustling away the Arabs. Dr. M. T. Mehdi, head of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, was arrested and charged with interfering with an officer who was attempting to arrest another man.

With the recent declaration of a cease fire, the rallies have momentarily ceased. The large attendance figures and media coverage have served to highlight the influence of New York City's Jews as perhaps the city's most politically aware and active ethnic group, a viable force which commands respect and influence in the circles of city and national government.

The President Speaks

Bear Facts



By the time you read this column, hopefully the guns in the

Mideast will have been silenced. But how do we compensate for the lives wasted and families broken—when nothing has really changed? The causes of the conflict remain and the wounds stay open.

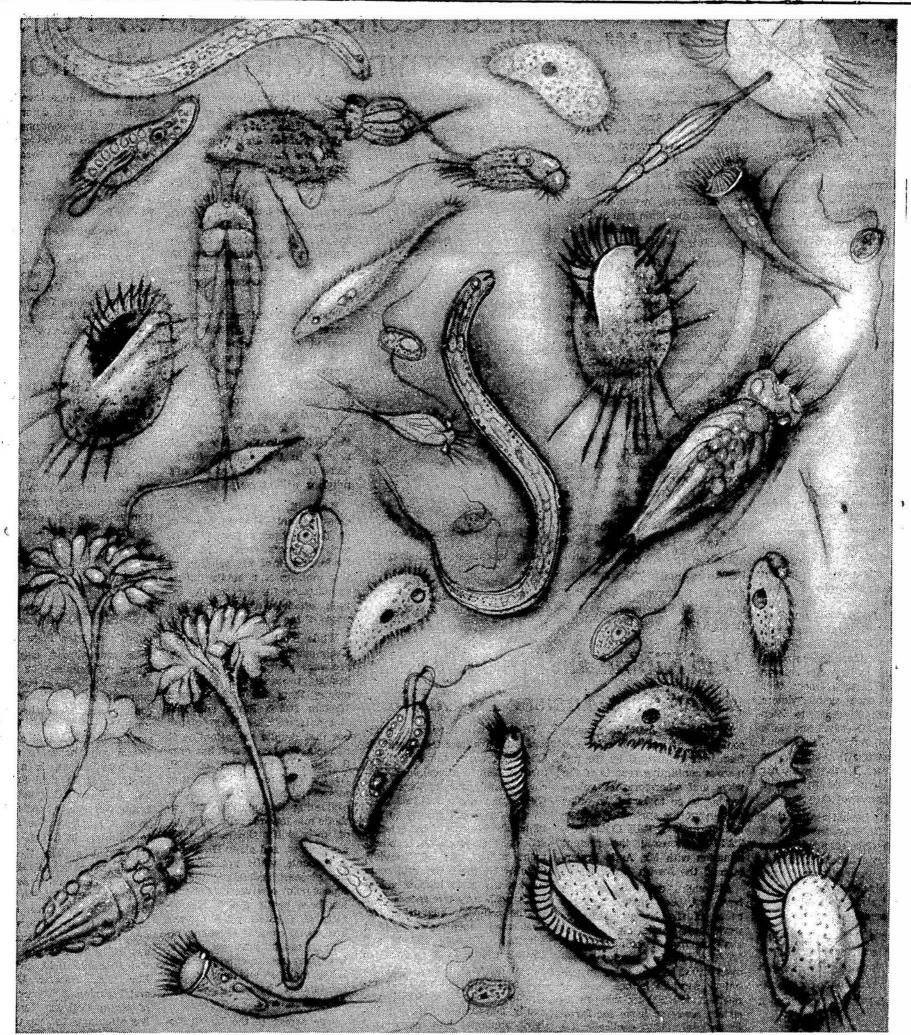
In a short twenty-rive years, Israel has miraculously turned a patch of desert laid barren by centuries of waste, into a flourishing Jewish homeland. Her neighbors, however, have continued to live in the wastes of time, neglecting their own lands and their own people. It is one of the ironies of history that the Arab people have denied themselves the pleasure of the twentieth century, diverting their resources to lay claim to an area that they had left in disuse for so long a time and that now blossoms.

How can a modern superpower side with nations determined to remain backward, when Israel has transformed herself from a desert to a twentieth century nation? How can a superpower that has annexed neighboring countries through acts of aggression condemn a people whose only wish is to secure their boundaries?

The Russian contempt for Israel's integrity is symptomatic of attitude toward Jews in general. Russian history is filled with discrimination against Jews. Russian policies, while discriminating against all minorities, have taken partcular aim at the Jew. Present day Soviet policy of supporting Arab claims with military aid raises the question as to how Russia can recognize the claims of Palestinians while simultaneously rejecting the requests of Soviet Jews to emigrate to the Jewish homeland, which Russia itself recognized in 1948

Russia has created much unhappiness throughout Jewish history. Hopefully, the guns will be silenced, a lasting peace established, and the Jews of Russia permitted to emigrate to a Jewish homeland with a secure future.

...NOW



We invited a few friends for dinner and they helped clean up the Genesee River.

With the aid of a few thousand pounds of microorganisms, we're helping to solve the water pollution problem in Rochester. Maybe the solution can help others.

What we did was to combine two processes in a way that gives us one of the most efficient water-purifying systems private industry has ever developed.

One process is called "activated sludge," developed by man to accelerate nature's microorganism adsorption. What this means is that for the majority of wastes man can produce, there is an organism waiting somewhere that will happily assimilate it. And thrive on it.

The breakthrough came when Kodak scientists found a way to combine the activated sludge process with a trickling filter process and optimized the combination.

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(At Kodak, we were working on environmental improvement long before it made headlines.) And the pilot project worked so well, we built a ten-million-dollar plant that can purify 36-million gallons of water a day.

Governor Rockefeller called this "the biggest voluntary project undertaken by private industry in support of New York State's pure-water program."

Why did we do it? Partly because we're in business to make a profit—and clean water is vital to our business. But in furthering our own needs, we have helped further society's. And our business depends on society.

We hope our efforts to cope with water pollution will inspire others to do the same. And, we'd be happy to share our water-purifying information with them. We all need clean water. So we all have to work together.



KodakMore than a business.

Report Out Of Israel: Clash Seen As Unifier

By ELI SEIDMAN Israeli Correspondent

For the fourth time since her establishment as a state, Israel has been forced into war with her Arab neighbors. The Syrians invaded the Golan Heights and the Egyptians crossed the Suez Canal on Yom Kippur, 5734. At the time of this writing, all the land in the Golan Heights has been recaptured and the Israelis are entrenched even further in Syrian territory. The situation on the Canal, however, is difficult to figure out as both sides have gained and lost territory.

Frankly, that's all I know. It's entirely possible that those people outside of Israel will know more about the fighting than those inside the country. The newspapers here give very few "hard facts" since military information is extremely tight. In her press conference, Prime Minister Golda Meir did not add substantially to the information given out by the military.

What the papers do not describe and what anyone in Israel, especially in wartime, can attest to is the incredible spirit and courage of the Israeli people on the battlefields and in the cities. When war begins they automatically know what to do and they do it. At the first sound of the air raid sirens, Radio Israel broke its traditional Yom Kippur silence to announce the outbreak of war and call up the reserve units. The Israelis knew that they must once again "violate one Sabbath in order to keep many more Sabbaths," and while still in kittel and talit, they could be seen getting into cars to go to their bases. Neither panic nor confusion was evident, just a pervading sense of duty.

Those left behind realize their duty too. The day-to-day affairs of a country like communications and industry must still function. In addition, precautionary measures like blackouts or saving of drinking water are undertaken without even a murmur.

Foreigners are no exception either. As soon as Yom Kippur was over, hundreds of students in Jerusalem's yeshivot and colleges poured into Magen David

UJA Sponsors Drives; Monies Helping Offset Huge Economic Losses

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 3) chairman Irving Bernstein, Israel's Finance Minister Pinchas Sapir was moved to tears by the Americans' generosity.

Perhaps the high point of the campaign was Sunday's telethon. Prepared in five days by Michael Krauss, the program received nearly \$4,000,000 in pledges in four hours. By late Wednesday the contributions had exceeded the pledges.

The UJA expects to maintain the current pace as long as it is needed. Overconfidence on the part of America's Jews could be fatal at this point. Adom and nearby hospitals to give blood and help wherever they were needed. For the most part, they did Arab labor, since in wartime all Arabs working in institutions, government or otherwise, are suspended. Besides keeping the hospitals running, the taking over of these jobs by the mitnadvim, volunteers, insures that draftable men and women will not be forced to do non-military work.

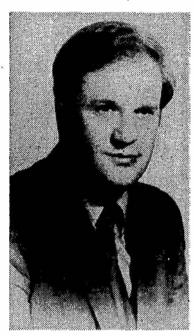
Everywhere, feelings of unity and solidarity prevail as all work toward the common cause. All barriers — political, religious, national — are broken. Strangers on the street crowd around a radio for the news. It is not a bit odd to see a Chassid standing alongside someone without a yarmulkeh and their faces will both have the same expression about the news they are hearing.

Though confident that this war too will end in victory, the battlefield news does not please the average Israeli. He understands that each casualty may be a close relative or friend. He does not let that stand in the way of his doing his part in the joint effort for survival that war with the Arabs entails. The spirit that got Israel through '48, '56, '67 appears to be carrying her through '73, too.

Israel Consul Elucidates Policy Concerning Religious Situations

By DAVID GLEICHER

Among Israel's most serious internal problems, are those which arise out of religious conflicts. To help understand the situation, THE COMMENTATOR interviewed Shlomo Levin, the Israeli



Shlomo Levin, Israeli Consul

Consul in charge of religious affairs.

Two religious-oriented disputes recently arose which involved Egged bus drivers and Russian immigrants. The first problem arose when it was discovered that the drivers were starting their post-havdalah runs before the end of Shabbat. According to Mr. Levin, the drivers' actions were not out of malicious anti-religious feeling, but rather, out of ignorance. The drivers got used to starting their buses early Saturday evenings during the winter and, for convenience's sake, continued to begin their runs the same time later in the spring. The problem has since been resolved.

The second problem is a more recent one: Israeli officials were accused of convincing religious Russian olim in Vienna to register their children in non-dati state schools. Mr. Levin explained that the cause of this problem, as in the previous one, was ignorance. The officials simply registered the children in the state school nearest to that family's future home (regardless of that school's religious affiliation).

While there may have been cases of anti-religious coercion on the part of a few officials, such instances were rare. Mr. Levin says that the solution to this problem is a better understanding on the part of the Israeli officials of the religious needs of the Russian immigrants.

While most Israelis are relatively apathetic to religion, there are some groups that are openly hostile towards it. Foremost among them are Uri Avneri's Haolam Hazeh Party and Hashomer Hatzair. Mr. Levin pointed out that despite the attention it attracts, Haolam Hazeh has only 2 Kenesset seats out of 120. As for Hashomer Hatzair, that movement has of late been reevaluating its long-time antipathetic role towards religion. Many of their kibbutzim have built synagogues, and other Hashomer settlements, while not going as far, at least understand the religious point of view. This change has been partly due to the efforts of a group called Gesher. The group consists of young religious people who go out to irreligious settlements to establish a dialogue and increase understanding between dati and non-dati Israelis.

One aspect of the Israeli Religion-State relationship that has been subject to much controversy

is the Yeshiva department. Under the law, a man is deferred from the army if he continues his religious studies. However, when he ends his studies, he becomes subject to the draft. This is similar to the situation of "Special" (e.g. medical) students who get their service postponed.

Many religious students choose a different route: the Yeshiva Hesder. In that type of yeshiva, students learn and serve in the army as a unit. Mr. Levin stated that the Yeshiva Hesder is similar to Nahal in being a special branch of the army. "You can't put the whole nation into a single mold. There has to be room to accommodate different members of Israeli society." (That is, the Israeli Army believes in the maxim, "Different strokes for different folks.")

The religious problems that arise in Israel from time to time can be surmounted. Perhaps in the near future, with increased understanding, and greater Western religious immigration, such problems will vanish.

YU Students And Alumni Donate To Israeli Effort

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 5)
their year abroad, engrossed in
either Talmudic or secular
studies. While these students are
currently volunteering at medical
centers and kibbutzim, a 1970
graduate of YC, Berl Bessin, is
serving in the Israeli army. Mr.
Bessin, who hopes to return in
the near future, is a Visiting
Lecturer of Political Science at
YC. Another YC graduate, Dr.
Irwin Krasner, a pediatric surgeon, left his practice last week
to volunteer in Israel.

Included among the alumni who had gone on Aliyah, are Dr. David Maier serving as director of the Shaarei Tzedek Hospital and Dr. Mayer Aran as senior assistant to the Attorney General, Ministry of Justice. Numerous YC graduates are active in the academic field, teaching in Bar Ilan, Hebrew University, and Technion. A former registrar of Stern College, Yaakov Zev, has attempted to keep the Israeli alumni informed of our activities and vice versa.

Dati Kibbutzim Virtually Full; Americans Answer To Calling

Enthusiastic individuals with something of value to offer are frequently frustrated by the numerous conflicting reports of the whys and wherefores of volunteering to go to Israel. In order to prevent the spread of further misinformation, THE COMMENTATOR discussed the present situation with Mr. Artie Freierman of the Jewish Agency.

Although detailed analyses have not been undertaken because of the heavy emergency work load, partial figures were available from Tuesday, October 16. The Jewish Agency received over 30,000 calls offering to volunteer services in one form or another, with 100 declaring themsedves ready to leave for Israel immediately. 1000 applicants for overseas service have been completely processed, with another 400 already at work in Israel. Comparative figures with the 1967 effort were, so far, unavail-

Volunteer's Requirements

The requirements for civilian work in Israel are not considered a burden for even the most eager of volunteers, and red tape has been held to a bare minimum. An applicant must meet the stipulation that at least four, but usually six months be spent as part of the civilian labor force. There is a minimum of two interviews to face, a medical examination, and psychological screening before the placement procedure begins, 80% of the total processed applicants have been accepted; those few who were denied were most often found unsuited for the type of work they requested, and chose not to take other assignments.

Of those who have reached Israel, 50% are from the New York City area, the remainder coming mostly from Philadelphia, Chicago, Miami, parts of Texas, and the large Canadian cities. They have been placed mostly in the kibbutzim because of the relative efficiency of the kibbutz placement offices. As of Tuesday, October 23, there was still room for seventy more kibbutz volunteers, with very few spaces open of the religious kibbutzim, Mr. Freierman mentioned Be'erot Yitzchak, Yavneh, Sa'ad, and Chofetz Chaim as those religious kibbutzim with a few openings, but said that the need for religious kibbutz volunteers is virtually non-existent. Many religious students had cooperated with the Jewish Agency by accepting placement in the nonreligious areas, rather than withdrawing their applications.

There is currently little channeling of information within the Jewish bureaucratic establishment about the need for volunteers in the inner cities, where so far none have been placed. With the expected slowdown in production, there will be a need for additional manpower contributing to the Israeli economic machinery. The Jewish Agency places a high priority on those anticipated post-war needs, and expects the need for volunteers to continue for quite a while. In addition, full-time and part-time workers are needed at the Jewish Agency offices themselves. Further information about applying for volunteer work in Israel can be obtained from the overseas program coordinator, Kathy Gay,

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