

# Jewry Deeply Concerned

ADDRESS TO THE K NESSET

I cannot conclude my review without dwelling on my encounters with Jewish communities. One of my principal aims in the three-week tour was to meet representatives of US, Canadian and British Jewry, as well as of continental European Jewry. As the Knesset is well aware, we have made enormous demands on world Jewry in recent times, calling on them to help us mobilize resources on an unprecedented scale to meet the needs that arise from our situation. That was why we found it so necessary, and why we were so concerned, to explain to them the problems of the State and its needs at this hour.

I found Jewry deeply concerned, following anxiously and with complete sympathy every phase of our political struggle and our economic development, alert to our needs and prepared to involve itself in our endeavours. Our Jewish brethren told me how much encouragement and inspiration they drew from us, and I replied that we derive strength from their unreserved identification with us.

Once again I discovered that the Jewish people throughout the world has not wearied of playing its part in our struggle, by supporting our endeavours for peace, offering material aid motivated by love and understanding, and helping us with immigrant absorption and the development of the country, at a time when we must devote our main resources increasingly



MRS. MEIR

to the defence effort. Hundreds of thousands of Jews who, after visiting Israel once, have come over and over again, have formed ties of love and devotion to this country and constitute a reserve of affection and goodwill for Israel. For the first time, we are witness to an increasing and promising aliya from the United States and other Western countries.

I was glad of the opportunity to meet several hundred representatives of Jewish students from colleges all over the United States, and a select group of professors and leading intellectuals, drawn from Universities all over the country.

In my long talks with these two groups, certain perplexities, doubts and questions arose which were the subject of penetrating and pertinent debate. But I can now say for a certainty that the notion that large sections of Jewish youth are abandoning us, or that we have suffered a tremendous setback among the intelligentsia, is entirely unfounded.

The dialogue demonstrated the participants' positive attitude to Israel, their wish to involve themselves in our problems and even to play a personal part in the building of our renaissance society.

NEW YORK - Israel's Ministry of Housing and Land Authority have recently designated several sections of land northeast of Jerusalem in the Neve-Ya'acov - A tarot sector to be developed into Orthodox communities. A spokesman for the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem commented that the proposed site had been chosen because "there have been demands to allocate land for the construction of religious housing projects in Jerusalem. These demands came, mainly, from Orthodox rabbis and yeshivot in the United States who planned to build apartment projects for the students and families connected with the particular religious institutions."

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