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Kibbutz Hanita, Post Hanita

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF TRIP TO ISRAEL FOR GAR'IN SOF MA'ARAV

by Daniel and Roberta Bell-Kligler

I. Innovative plan for design and construction of the moshav (Gitai/Alexander plan).

Pushing approval of the Gitai/Alexander plan through the Jewish Agency and the Ministry of Housing was the largest single job of our trip and took a great deal of time and effort. We met with much opposition to the plan at the "middle management" levels, and the ultimate acceptance of the plan came only because we managed to get a positive response from Raanan Weitz, Head of the Settlement Department, and Avni, Director General of the Ministry of Housing. (It should be noted, however, that the managers with whom we shall be dealing in these two agencies - Yaakov Friedman, Director of the Northern Region in the Settlement Department, and Yosef Margalit, Director of Rural Construction in the Housing Ministry, - were both helpful and cooperative and appear eager to help implement the plan.)

Although Weitz had expressed his approval of the plan in principle long before our trip to Israel, the final go-ahead and method of implementation were given only in a meeting of the Settlement Department, the Housing Ministry, Amos Gitai, and us two days before our departure from Israel. (Weitz's office is preparing minutes of this meeting.) At the meeting it was agreed by all parties concerned that the Gitai/Alexander <sup>idea</sup> would be employed in the planning and construction of Segev H, a site at the north end of the Segev bloc whose planning has not yet begun. The development of Rakefet will continue by the conventional route. Gar'in Sof Ma'arav is given the choice of the two sites and their accompanying development plans, and must inform Weitz of its decision by October. Although funds for Segev H are not in this year's budget, Weitz gave a personal guarantee that if we choose that site and keep up with the timetable set for Rakefet (complete program and master plan of layout by end of October), he will have funds allocated so that Segev H keeps up with Rakefet in planning and construction.

Our last day in Israel, Yaakov Friedman took Amos and us to visit Segev H, which we had not seen on our previous trips to Segev. If Rakefet's beauty is impressive, the beauty of Segev H must be called breathtaking. The site is a small, flat-topped rise on the southern flank of the high ridge separating Segev from Bik'at Beit Kerem to its north. The view to the south and west takes in olive groves in the wadis, the neighboring village of Sha'ab, and Haifa Bay in the distance. We have compiled a separate list of the advantages and disadvantages of Segev H which we should consider carefully before making a final decision.

We would like to make two additional points in summary of lessons that we have learned from the experience of working on this plan in Israel. The first is that we owe Amos a large debt of thanks for his tireless work and diplomacy, without which the plan would never have been accepted. Second, the active presence of gar'in members in the negotiations was also essential, and points up the need for a permanent gar'in representative in Israel as soon as possible.



## II. Plans for gar'in halutz group.

We considered three possible arrangements for the gar'in halutz group of about five families, planning to make Aliyah in summer, 1979: absorption center in Carmiel, temporary camp in Segev, or temporary housing on an existing moshav shitufi. Since the gar'in expressed interest mainly in the third possibility, we pursued this option during our trip. The two moshavim considered in this regard were Moledet and Ya'ad. Kfar Hittin might also be a possibility.

Moledet is a well-established, agricultural moshav shitufi - one of the two original moshavim shitufiim in Israel. We visited there and spoke with the mazkir, Ya'akov Frumer. This moshav is in good shape both economically and socially, and would be a good learning experience for our halutzim. However, Moledet has only one industrial project and is also far away (in Emeq Beit Shean) from Segev. Furthermore, there is no housing available there for our group.

Ya'ad has the advantages of being a young, industrial moshav shitufi very near our site. We visited both their permanent home and their temporary camp and spoke with ~~the~~ a few of the members. The mazkir, Na'aman Belkind, thought that the idea of our halutz group living at Ya'ad was a good one in principle, ~~but would not~~ and said that he would discuss it with the moshav executive committee. However, Ya'ad is presently accepting new members as fast as it has room for them, and Na'aman expressed concern that there would not be temporary housing available for us. If we decide that Ya'ad is our first choice, we should continue to pursue this matter through the moshav movement and Tsvi Weininger.

## III. Contacts with Moshav Movement and with other moshavim

Dealing with our moshav "comrades" was the most pleasant part of our mission. These people were almost invariably positive and encouraging about our plans and seemed always to have our interests foremost in their minds. We think the Moshav Movement is probably the best friend the gar'in has in Israel at this point.

We met several times at the Moshav Movement with Shai ben Eliahu, the deputy director, and Nir Dorsinai, who is in charge of moshavim shitufiim. Shai told us that the movement could not provide money for our activities in the U.S. However, they are eager to help in non-financial respects, such as putting pressure on the Jewish Agency and the Housing Ministry. We spoke with Nir, a member of Moshav Moledet, about our constitution; and his main reaction was a strong vote for greater collectivity in the early stages of the moshav. He stressed that "moonlighting" and outside business interests of members could have particularly destructive effects, and this sentiment was echoed almost unanimously by other members of moshavim shitufiim. (Moledet, in fact, requires members to liquidate their assets and deposit the cash with the moshav.)

We visited four moshavim shitufiim: Moledet, Ya'ad, Neve Ilan, and Elazar. Our visit to Moledet is mentioned above, while the other three moshavim are described in Debbie and Andy Pearlman's trip report. Ya'ad will be moving into their permanent homes in a few months and appears to be doing well both economically and in recruitment. They now have 22 families in their temporary camp. Their computer services and architecture offices are doing well; they are liquidating their nursery, but will have a hothouse for flowers at their permanent site. At Elazar we spoke mainly to Jack Kern, who told us that economically the moshav was so busy that they would have to hire workers, but socially the group is still beset by problems and recruitment is going slowly.



Daniel and Roberta Bell-Kligler....Activities in Israel as representatives of  
Gar'in Sof Ma'arav

Sunday July 16	Monday 17	Tuesday 18	Wednesday 19	Thursday 20	Friday 21	Saturday 22
	Meetings with Vered Halpern Shai ben-Eliahu (morning, T.A.) Kobi Leket (afternoon, Jlm)  Wrote letters to Weitz, Mar- galit, Pat, Sharon, Kotlo- vich	Meeting with Avni and Margalit (morning) Barkai (afternoon) (All at mini- stry of Hous- ing, Jlm)  Phone call to Nir Dorsinai	Meeting with Kobi Leket  Phone call to Margalit	Calls to Vered Halpern, Amos, Margalit	Vacation	
July 23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Meeting with Yankele Friedman, S. Lazar, G. Zem- ler, N. Dorsinai, Amos (morning, Haifa) Meeting with Dorsinai (after- noon)  Calls to Vered, S. ben-Eliahu, Gabi Krein, Moshav Moledet	Meeting with Margalit, Stern (Mini- stry of Hous- ing, TA)  Call to Gar- in (evening)	Trip to Segev from Haifa with Zemler, Lazar. Met Skip Treisner of Manof	Visit to El-op (Rehovot, mor- ning)  Meeting with ben-Eliahu, Dorsinai (TA, afternoon)  Call from Gar- in (evening)	Vacation		Meeting with Amos (Jlm)



July 30	31	August 1	2	3	4	5
<p>Visit at Moledet (moshav shitufi)</p> <p>Visit and meetings at Ya'ad temporary site</p> <p>Visit to Rakefet site</p>	<p>Call to S. ben Eliyahu</p> <p>Call from Gar'in</p>	<p>Meeting with A. Wachman (Technion architect)</p> <p>Meetings with Y. Friedman, S. Lazar</p> <p>Interview for Israel radio</p> <p>Meeting with Avivah and Moshe Barnea (Haifa, evening)</p>	<p>Visits to moshavim Nevei Ilan and Elazar</p>	<p>Meeting with G. Krein (TA)</p> <p>Meeting with V. Halpern</p> <p>Meeting of Rakefet "professional committee"</p>	Vacation	
August 6	7	8				
<p>Meeting with R. Weitz, Margalit, Ravid, Friedman, Krein, Amos (Jlm)</p> <p>Call to Dorsinai</p> <p>Meeting with the Simons (potential members)</p>	<p>Meeting with Y. Friedman and visit to Segev H</p> <p>Call from Gar'in</p>	<p>Flight to England</p>				



## ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF SEGEV H (relative to Rakefet)

### Advantages:

1. We will have control over all phases of planning and construction.
2. The view is prettier.
3. Segev H is less centrally located and will have a more rural feeling.
4. Raanan Weitz has promised, with the approval of his subordinates and of the Ministry of Housing, that if we keep up with the Rakefet timetable in our work on Segev H, ~~that~~ funds will be allocated and construction of roads and infrastructure begun so that we can move onto the land by early 1981, as planned.
5. Segev H is nearer to Carmiel.
6. Segev H has some trees and a cave.

### Disadvantages:

1. Officials of the Settlement Department and Housing Ministry feel that we will not keep up with the schedule for Rakefet if we begin work on Segev H now.
2. Even with Weitz's assurance that he will procure a budget for us, Segev H does not yet have the approval of the Committee of Ministers.
3. Work has not yet begun on the road to connect Segev H with the regional center. Presumably Weitz's promise includes this road, but if this work is delayed, access to Segev H will be only via a more roundabout, existing road through the neighboring Arab village of Sha'ab.
4. Segev H is on a steep-sided plateau, a couple of kilometers from the regional center, so that foot travel to the center is less convenient than from Rakefet.
5. While the flat, buildable area of Segev H appears to be easily large enough for a "young" moshav, the steep sides of the hill ~~make~~ may ~~make~~ curtail growth at some point in the future. (The site may not accommodate 200 units, as planned for Rakefet.)