

May 16, 1971

THE VINEYARD OF TORAH

One of the high points of a semi-Sabbatical I recently spent in Israel was a visit for Shabbat to Yeshivah Kerem B'Yavneh. I had, of course, paid brief visits during past trips to the Holy Land, but this was the first opportunity to do so together with my family and for a whole Shabbat.

That we were greeted with an outpouring of friendship, goes without saying. Even in a country renowned for its hospitality, Kerem B'Yavneh is distinguished for the warmth and genuineness of its welcome. The esteemed Rosh Yeshivah, whom I am honored to consider a friend and whose admirer I am, the well-known and beloved Mashgiach, the member<sup>s</sup> of the faculty and administration, and the students -- all were extremely gracious.

But it was not only the sum of these individual encounters that left a lasting impression. All together join in forming a model Torah community, in which learning and vigor, piety, and youthfulness, find their fullest expressions. I do not exaggerate when I say that my family -- including young children who had never been to Kerem B'Yavneh before -- experienced a sense of

home-coming. Kerem B'Yavneh is, indeed, the kind of "home" on which many of us pin our hopes for Israel's future. Here, in an atmosphere in which spiritual and psychological growth is natural, one finds that rare combination: an uncompromising dedication to Torah <sup>together</sup> combined with an awareness of contemporary life and a commitment to Israel and Jewry.

Most unforgettable was the Friday evening at the home of Rabbi Goldvicht. After enjoying the charming hospitality of the host and hostess, both the culinary excellence and the delightful and instructive conversation, a number of American students -- almost all of whom I knew from the States -- came to visit. I was struck by the openness with which they engaged the Rosh Yeshivah and myself in the conversation. It was a frankness perfectly allied with respect and reverence -- in a way, a form of Talmudic discourse on general Jewish subjects! Opinions were freely offered -- and differing points of view listened to attentively. Intellectual stimulation, middot or moral character, and commitment to Kelal Yisrael in its broadest sense -- these emerged from the lively discussion. In all three, the students I had known previously demonstrated noticeable, even remarkable, progress. And all this -- in a "home" atmosphere.

Newsletter of

Yeshiva Kerem B'Yavneh

-3-

May 16, 1971

The Yeshiva is indeed a "Vineyard in Yavneh." The Rosh Yeshiva has excelled in building the most beautiful vineyard in Israel. The vines are sturdy, strong, and fruitful.

In all -- an intoxicating experience!