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CONFIDENTIAL (GDS)

BACKGROUND ON JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
BICENTENNIAL DINNER - JUNE 22

The Jewish National Fund (JNF) dinner will highlight interest in the Park which the JNF is sponsoring inside Israel proper in honor of our Bicentennial. The JNF, however, has at times been involved in controversial activities with implications for our Middle East policy, and the background of the organization is worth noting.

The JNF is the largest and most important organization involved in land reclamation and development in the Occupied Territories [territories occupied by Israel as a result of the 1967 war]. These activities are preparatory to the establishment of Israeli settlements in these areas -- one of the most sensitive issues of the Arab-Israeli dispute because it signifies in Arab eyes an unwillingness to withdraw from these areas as part of an overall settlement. The President has made clear that US policy with respect to the status of the Occupied Territories remains unchanged from what it has been since the 1967 war -- that the status of these areas must be decided in negotiations among the parties themselves. As a matter of policy, we do not recognize the activities of any party in these areas as prejudging the outcome of their future status. The Israeli Government is well aware of US policy opposing settlements in the Occupied Territories and other related activities.

Because of our policy on the Occupied Territories, the USG has carefully refrained from giving any appearance of support for activities whose primary objective is to raise funds for the planting of trees and other development in these areas and particularly on the West Bank. Thus, JNF requests for Presidential and other messages for its annual brochure seeking support for its tree-planting and land reclamation activities have regularly been turned down, as have requests that trees be planted in the President's name in specific areas in the Occupied Territories.

However, this year the JNF is sponsoring the development of a Park in honor of our Bicentennial and it is located in Israel proper or pre-1967 Israel. Since its location is not in the sensitive Occupied Territories, it was accorded official recognition by our Bicentennial

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DAD 7/8/82



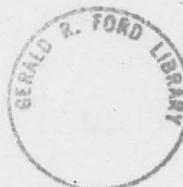
Commission, ARBA. [Because of the Park, a Presidential message of an exclusively Bicentennial nature has been sent to the JNF brochure but no reference was made to other JNF activities and the request was treated as an exception for the Bicentennial].

This year's dinner will dramatize the Park. At the same time, it cannot be ruled out that there may be some attendant publicity of JNF's regular programs (which extend into the Occupied Territories) in an environment which could suggest official USG endorsement. It would therefore be appropriate to focus any remarks exclusively on the Bicentennial Park and avoid reference to JNF's general activities or to future JNF projects.

Appropriate conversational points might include the following:

- Relations between Israel and the US remain especially close. Symbolic of this is the fact that Prime Minister Rabin was the first head of government to visit Washington in our Bicentennial year.
- We are proud of our long history of close relations with Israel and all that the people of Israel are doing to help us celebrate our Nation's birthday.
- Israel and the US have an affinity not only for each other but also for the basic principles of democratic self-government which distinguish our two nations from most other nations.
- We are very grateful for all who are participating in the Bicentennial effort this year. We especially appreciate the Bicentennial Park being celebrated here tonight. It will serve as a permanent reminder of the friendship between our two peoples.
- I hope that all who visit the Park will enjoy it in the spirit of the true and lasting friendship between our two countries.

[Attachment: Background materials on the Park]



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 11, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: PETER SORUM
FROM: SUSAN PORTER
SUBJECT: Action Memo

Mrs. Ford has accepted the following out-of-town invitation:

EVENT: Gala National Bicentennial Dinner

GROUP: Jewish National Fund

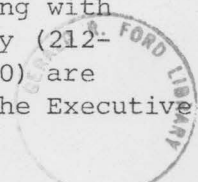
DATE: Tuesday, June 22, 1976

TIME: 6:00 p.m. V.I.P. Cocktail Reception (Mercury Room)
7:00 p.m. Dinner (Main Ballroom)

PLACE: New York Hilton Hotel, New York City

CONTACT: Dr. Maurice S. Sage, President, Jewish National Fund
O: 212-879-9300
212-752-3886
H: 212-248-6988

COMMENTS: The President specifically asked Mrs. Ford to attend the Jewish National Fund Gala National Bicentennial Dinner. At this time the organization is launching a Bicentennial Park in Israel, as is indicated in the files. About 200 people will attend the cocktail reception preceding the main dinner. About 2,000 will attend the dinner. The dinner program appears to be an extended one. Mrs. Ford will return to Washington that evening. N.S.C. is working with Kaye Pullen on remarks. Both Tex McCrary (212-838-6220) and Milton Hoffman (914-352-4800) are involved in the plans for the evening. The Executive



June 11, 1976

Director of the Jewish National Fund is Dr. Abram Salomon (212-249-5400). Dr. Sage, however, is the direct contact. The file is attached. Thank you.

c: BF Staff
Red Cavaney
Jerry Jones
William Nicholson
Warren Hendriks
David Lissy
Milt Mitler
Jean Davis
Terry O'Donnell
Rex Scouten
Staircase



4-16
put in
Pending

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

(KEREN KAYEMETH LEISRAEL) INC.

42 EAST 69TH STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10021

(212) 879-9300

DR. MAURICE S. SAGE
PRESIDENT

April 12, 1976

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Ford:

We were extremely pleased to learn from Mrs. Susan Porter that you have kindly accepted to honor us with your presence and bring greetings at our Gala National Bicentennial Dinner to be held on Tuesday, June 22nd, 1976, at The New York Hilton in New York City. Of course, Mr. Milton Hoffman, our mutual friend, was delighted with the news.

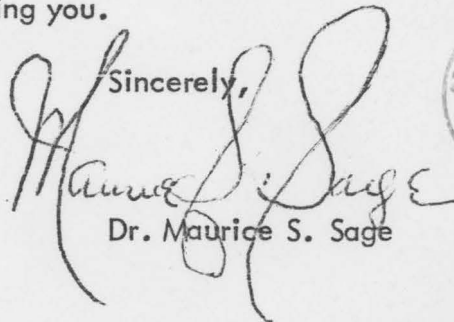
Your appearance will, indeed, highlight this historic event when we will launch the American Bicentennial National Park in Israel commemorating 200 years of American independence. This project, located southwest of Jerusalem in the Judean Mountains, is endorsed by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration and is considered as one of the largest national and international projects. It will serve as an expression of the bonds of friendship between the Peoples of the United States and Israel.

Fifty-two US Senators have already joined our National Committee which is in formation, in addition to a substantial number of Governors.

Your presence will add luster and prestige to this memorable event.

All of us eagerly look forward to greeting you.

Sincerely,


Dr. Maurice S. Sage



MSS:egl

per
Mr. Sage

PROGRAM!

200

6:00 V. I. P. Cocktail Recept.
7:00 Mercury Rm.

2100

7:00 Dinner in Main Ball
8:15 Introduce of dais
guests

Colors
Anthem
Speech
Dinner
Dinner

Thursdays
But by many
Proben to the

- Exec. V. Pres. stop

- Meeting
by John Warner;
RBA.

- J. H. Fund of Quarantine
Ambass.

- Jewish Agency
Lublin

- Address by
Ambass. - Smith

- Dr. Sage intro. B.T.
+ give Res award

Key to Bicent.
Park in 1915. D.

Milton
Jefferson

Mr. Paroly
for Amer. Bicent.
Park



ACTION

March 22, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: WILLIAM NICHOLSON

FROM: JEANNE W. DAVIS *JWD*

SUBJECT: Mrs. Ford's Attendance at Jewish
National Fund Gala for Bicentennial Park

If the decision has been made that Mrs. Ford is definitely attending the Jewish National Fund gala, we would appreciate the opportunity to clear on any proposed written reply accepting the invitation. We would also like to coordinate in briefing materials and suggested remarks for Mrs. Ford's use in connection with attendance at this event.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1. WLN
2. June 7

March 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: BILL NICHOLSON

FROM:

DAVID LISSY

SUBJECT:

Invitation to the President and Mrs. Ford
to attend National Bicentennial Gala Dinner
of the Jewish National Fund to be held
June 7 in New York City

As you know, I recommended against the President's attendance. I do not see the same problems with regard to Mrs. Ford's attendance and would be very pleased if she chose to attend.

cc: Brent Scowcroft



Hert Brody

Wilton ~~Wilton~~ Caterers Inc.
Spring Valley, NY

wife Lilly, 3 children

prominent religious Zionist

Pres of Relig Zionists of Am, Pres of Jewish Natl Fund

\$150 a plate

2200 tickets

Gala Bicent Dinner / Poly dinner

degree in education ^{Rabbinical} Sem in Paris

bn in Russia

Intl known chemist +

head of Sage Laboratories in
NY + NJ

7 languages

393 3430
232 3838
prom dead
~~the~~ shortly after 11pm
11:40 pm

10:17 Can we all bow our hds for a moment +
say a prayer for rabbi Sage. He is going to
the hosp + he needs our prayers. Wld you
rise + bow yr hds. I'll hve to say it in my
own wds. Dr fth in heaven. We ask thy
blessing on this magnific man, Rab Sge.
We kno you can tke care of him. We kno
you can bring us back our ldr. You are our
strength you are what life is all about -
love. And love of fellow man is what we
all need + depend on. Pls dear God lets
all join together in silent prayer for
rabbi sage -

Silence

thnk you vry much. I kno it will mean
a git deal to him + I kno it means a
git deal to me

Carole Sorell
753-5731
593-6333
6400

tom

10:37
Sally Q

Signal

F. Winston
Stouffens REF 0589



srw
AP story

fran
holland file

rusty
checkbook

charleen

ron
radio bag

deborah

trans ofc - mpls



Rockefeller
812 5th Ave

Michael Ashenbrand

JNF

Alex Falcon

Mrs Rose Dolinko

Sophie Schatz

Samuel Scar



SEATING LIST

GALA JNF NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL DINNER

Inaugurating the

AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL NATIONAL PARK IN ISRAEL

of the

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF AMERICA

Tuesday Evening, June 22nd, 1976

GRAND BALLROOM

THE NEW YORK HILTON
New York City

Lillian Berkman
Tune

D A I S

Abramowitz, Rabbi Mayer
Abzug, Congresswoman, Bella
Adelson, Prof. Howard L.
Alter, Mr. Albert
Amber, Mr. Julius B.
Amsellem, Mr. Jacques
Bardin, Commissioner David
Benjamin, Miss Juliet N.
Berkowitz, Rabbi William
Bernstein, Rabbi Louis
Bissel, Mr. Gerald
Brody, Mr. Herbert
Chodos, Rabbi Noah
Ciechanover, Mr. Joseph
Clark, The Hon. Ramsey
Cohen, Rabbi David
Cohen, Dr. Samuel I.
Cohen, Mr. Sidney
Couveinhes, The Hon. Rene
Cruso, Mr. Pinchas
Dinitz, The Hon. Simcha
Dubrow, Mr. Stanley
Eisen, Mr. Jesse
Ford, Mrs. Betty, Our First Lady
Fox, Mr. Jerrold
Friedman, Mr. Israel
Futterman, Mr. Jack
Giloni, Mr. Morris
Goldin, The Hon. Harrison J.
Goldman, Mrs. Henry
Goldstein, Mr. Israel K.
Goldzimer, Mrs. Isidore
Goodman, Mr. Jacob
Gordon, Rabbi Harold H.
Gorek, Dr. Edmond
Hacohen, Dr. Mordecai
Halperin, Mr. Meyer
Halprin, Mrs. Rose L.
Hillman, Mrs. Lena
Hoffman, Mr. Martin
Hoffman, Mr. Milton
Hoppenstien, The Hon. Abe S.
Jacobs, Mr. Harold
Kagan, Mr. Moshe
Kapiloff, Dr. Bernard
Karin, Mr. David
Katsh, Prof. Abraham I.
Kove, Judge Moses L.
Lahis, Mr. Samuel
Lador, Ambassador Mordecai
Lefkowitz, Mr. Jack
Lehrman, Rabbi Irving



Lemmerman, Mr. Isadore
Levine, The Hon. Zvi
Levin, Mrs. William
Lissi, Mr. David
Loeb, Mr. John L. Jr.
Maloney, The Hon. Thomas E.
Malovaney, Cantor Joseph
Malavsky, Cantor Morton
McCrary, Mr. Tex
Millian, Mr. Paul
Miller, Rabbi Israel
Moncher, Rev. Gary
Multer, Judge Abraham J.
Paroly, Mr. Bernard - Guest of Honor
Paroly, Mrs. Bernard
Patten, Dr. Bebe
Perlmutter, Mr. Milton
Pesin, Mr. Meyer
Peskin, Mr. Kenneth
Preminger, Mr. Otto
Quittman, Mr. Herman Z.
Rabb, The Hon. Maxwell M.
Rackman, Rabbi Emanuel
Ratner, Dr. Milton D.
Rosenberg, Mr. Bernard
Rosenberg, Mr. Herbert
Rosenblatt, The Hon. William
Rosengarten, Mr. Glen
Sage, Dr. Maurice S.
Salomon, Mr. Abram
Schacter, Rabbi Herschel
Schlussel, Mr. Mark E.
Schneier, Rabbi Arthur
Silbert, Mrs. Sylvia
Shane, Mrs. Sylvan M.
Stein, Mrs. Charlotte
Sternstein, Dr. Joseph P.
Storch, Mr. Adolph D.
Suttenberg, Mr. Lawrence L.
Torczyner, Mr. Jacques
Tsur, Ambassador Jacob
Venet, Mr. Zal
Vigarri, The Hon. Carl
Warner, Mr. John W.
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* Balcony

I depend on -

Please dear God
let all join together
in a solemn

prayer for R. Sape:
(Silence for about 5
min)

Thank you very
much. I won't
worry about
deed to him. I

know it means a
great deal to me

10:22

at 10:20 came to the

Can we all bow our heads,
for a moment & say a
prayer for Rabbi Sape.

He's going to the hosp &
needs our prayers. We

you will & have your heads
bowed, I'll have to say
it in my own words.

Dear Father in Heaven we
ask thy blessing on this
magnificent man, Rabbi

Sape. We know you
can take care of him.
We know it - you are
our leader. You are
our strength. You are
what life is all about -
love & love of fellow
man is what we all need

10:20 came to nurse

10:22

10 mins. later

presented

moments after intro.

Ness; Saye intro. Ann. ~~Saye~~^F -
said a lot & nice

Ben's Brody called up - after presenting

K.S.L. to BK - she sat down -

Doctor

hospital / Oxygen / get
ambulance

June 22 -- National Jewish Fund Dinner

Can we all bow our heads for a moment for Rabbi Sage. He is going to the hospital and needs our prayers. Would you rise and bow your heads. (pause)

I'll have to say it in my own words. Dear Father in Heaven, we ask thy blessing on this magnificent man, Rabbi Sage. We know you can take care of him. We know you can bring him back to us. We know you are our leader. You are our strength. You are what life is all about. Love and love of fellowman is what we all need and depend on. Please, dear God.

Let's all join together in a silent prayer for Rabbi Sage.

(Silent prayer--approximately 1 minute)

Thank you very much. I know it will mean a great deal to him, and I know it means a great deal to me.

#



PROPOSED REMARKS: Jewish National Fund, Gala National Bicentennial Dinner
June 22, 1976

In only a few days, we will celebrate the Fourth of July, and for many years to come, the events of that day will be remembered with pleasure and pride by Americans and our friends around the world.

I've been especially excited this year by the projects I've seen that will keep the spirit of the Bicentennial alive. The restoration projects, not only in the original 13 colonies, but all across America, will be a permanent reminder of this special year.

But I think the sharing of this occasion by other countries has been equally important. America truly is a symbol to the free world of the survival and strength of democracy. I know the Bicentennial Forest in Israel will be enjoyed by many people, who will be reminded of America and her friendship with Israel.

I'm delighted I could be here tonight to present this key to the forest to an old friend of our family -- Milton Hoffman. To all of you this bicentennial wish: "May your Fourth of July be one of joy, pride and expectation for the future."



Mrs. Ford's Remarks
Jewish National Fund
Gala National Bicentennial Dinner
June 22, 1976
New York Hilton Hotel

In only a few days, we will celebrate the Fourth of July. For many years to come, the events of that day will be remembered with pleasure and pride by Americans and our friends around the world.

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But I think the sharing of this occasion by Israel is equally important. America truly is a symbol to the free world of the survival and strength of democracy. I know the Bicentennial National Forest in Israel will be enjoyed by many people, for it is a symbol of America and her friendship with Israel.

I'm delighted I could be here tonight to present this key to the forest to an old friend of our family---Milton Hoffman. To all of you this Bicentennial wish: "May your Fourth of July be one of joy, pride and expectation for the future."



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 12, 1976

Dear ,

I was deeply touched by your kind words regarding my prayer for Dr. Maurice Sage.

During times of such tragedy, we can only turn to the Father of all for His blessing and strength, and I am heartened to know my words offered comfort to so many.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,



*File - Jewish Fund
Dinner
File*
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO *Sheila* DATE *6/29*

GUIDANCE PLEASE _____ FYI ☒

*A sampling
of the mail.*

LIZ O'NEILL
East Wing
X 2520





AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Wednesday, June 23, 1976

Dear Mrs Ford,

You honored us by coming to the dedication ~~yesterday~~ and your warmth and graciousness made us all feel a bit better about our age. That people such as you are among its leaders and examples.

Your courage later that night and your instructive compassion were what a great lady taught all of us we ought to do in moments of trial and adversity.

You came to our building ~~yesterday~~ not as a stranger - and you left as a cherished friend.

Most cordially
Arthur Hays Sulzberger



JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

(KEREN KAYEMETH LEISRAEL) INC.

42 EAST 69TH STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10021

(212) 879-9300

ABRAM SALOMON
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

June 25, 1976

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Ford:

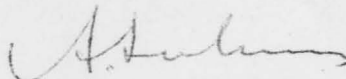
I am writing this note before my departure for Israel on Sunday to attend the July Fourth Ground-Breaking Ceremonies of the American Bicentennial National Park. I would have done this earlier were it not for the fact that I was still under the shock of the tragic death of my distinguished President, Dr. Maurice S. Sage.

On behalf of the Jewish National Fund of America, I do wish to express to you our deep gratitude for honoring us with your presence at the dinner on June 22nd, and above all, for rising to the heights of nobility and humanity in making the spontaneous memorable prayer for Dr. Sage. Your inspiring words reverberated throughout the land and were published in the JTA Daily News Bulletin which is distributed telegraphically throughout the entire world.

I phoned you today to convey these sentiments to you personally but regrettably you were out-of-town.

With best wishes for success, and high respect to you and to the President of the United States, I remain

Respectfully yours,


Abram Salomon

AS:egl



JOHN W. DREGGE
1637 THIRTY-SECOND STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20007

June 24, 1976

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Betty:

Connie and I were so proud of you in the way you handled the very tragic and unfortunate situation at the National Jewish Foundation where Dr. Sage had his heart attack. Your prayer was marvelous and struck just the right note. Again, just let me say that we were very proud of you not only on that occasion but also on many occasions where you have handled yourself so well.

We just past on Wednesday, June 23, our forty-ninth Wedding Anniversary. It shows that we are getting older but we still try to keep as active as possible.

Again, Connie joins me in sending our warmest regards to you and the President and our heartfelt best wishes for the future.

Our warm respects and love.

Sincerely,


John W. Dregge



525 Walnut NE
S. R. Mich. 49503

June 23, 1976

Dear Betty,

I have never seen
such courage and composure
in the face of tragedy.

You were a source of
strength for everyone at
the meeting, I'm sure.

As I watched you pray
on television I was so
thankful that we have
a person of your caliber
next to our president. You
must bolster your husband's
spirits countless times.

Please accept my gratitude
for the feeling of security
and calmness you radiate.
You are a very courageous
person.

Sincerely,
Lorna Phillips



Servants of America, but
more importantly, the
servants of God.

God Bless You -

LOREN JOSEBERG



Dear Betty -

6/23

Thank you so much for
your beautiful Christian
witness on behalf of the
Rabbi on Thursday past.

We in Western Michigan
have long known you and
Jerry for your concern
for others, but it should
now comfort millions of
other Americans to know
you are not only the

THE ZONDERVAN CORPORATION

June 24, 1976

Mrs. Gerald Ford
THE WHITE HOUSE
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20004

Dear Betty:

I just wanted to express my appreciation to you for the prayer you offered when the Rabbi had the heart attack in the meeting in New York. I read your prayer as given in the New York Times. I thought . . . Praise the Lord.

God bless you, Betty. Give my greetings to Jerry.

This morning after I read the last four words of the seventh verse of Ecclesiastes chapter five, I thought . . . I will.

Sincerely yours,

PJZ
P. J. Zondervan

PJZ/gt ✓



June 24, 1976

Dear Mrs. Ford:

I could not have been more proud of anyone as I watched you on television last night. Today's Tribune had an editorial which put it as it should be said.



God bless you.

Cordially.

Dorothy Oglvie

Apartment 10 C
1500 N. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60610

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

LVIE



2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, #604

Washington, D.C. 20037

June 23, 1976

First Lady Betty Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Ford:

During this Bicentennial year, I have devoted much time to reading, examining and rediscovering the American humanitarian spirit. This evening's CBS News broadcast provided the clearest example of that spirit which I expect to find during my lifetime.

You were to speak at a dinner when the Rabbi was stricken with a fatal heart attack. While this awesomely tragic event ensued, you inspired calm and reverence by asking a stunned and grief stricken audience to rise and join in prayer.

Your First Lady's Prayer was a genuinely spontaneous, noble and treasured humanitarian gesture of which we as a Nation can be proud and which you and the President will esteem many years from now. Your transcendence touched a chord of human kindness in the everyday lives of millions of American citizens. Mr. Ford is indeed fortunate to have made a life's friendship with a woman of your brilliance.

If your prayer is ever available for release, we would appreciate receiving a copy of it. Until then, please know that many of us in America feel spiritually renewed and morally better when we reflect upon your presence and leadership qualities.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Brookstone

Jeffrey M. Brookstone, Ph.D.



HAMILTON MORGEN
43 WILLETS ROAD
HARRISON, NEW YORK 10528

June 24, 1976.

Dear Mrs. Ford,

In addition to being the First Lady of our land, this is also addressed to you as, another American, and another human being.

It is said that tragedy often brings out the greatness in a person, and thus I believe it has happened to you on two occasions.

The first was your operation some time last year, and recently the terrible experience you had at the dinner for the Jewish National Fund of America, where the late, and wonderful Rabbi Maurice S. Sage past on.

It was sudden, and only the impulse, good taste, good judgement, and human concern could have reacted in any individual.

Thus as you responded, in your own ad lib, charm, manner, and representative, as First Lady, will be a happening that will place you dear in the hearts of every American.

I also wonder whether any of my own male sex, would have had the composure, and good taste to respond as you did, more so in matters concerning a election year. You placed the importance of a National election year second to human concern.

Hoping that all us men will learn from our First Lady,

Most Respectfully,

Hamilton Morgen
Hamilton Morgen.



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42ND STREET AND DEWEY AVENUE

OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68105

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* Division Chief

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Mrs. Joan Snider

June 25, 1976

Mrs. Betty Ford
United States White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

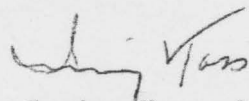
Dear Mrs. Ford:

I was deeply moved when I viewed on television the thoughtful way in which you responded the other night during a critical period in the life of the late Rabbi Sage.

As a physician who has assisted patients in such emergencies, I know how helpless the onlookers are. Beside being a meaningful one, your prayer gave the audience an opportunity to help in the only way that lay people can and that is by prayer.

As you began the prayer, you expressed some reservation about whether you would say the prayer in the right way, to this I would say have no reservations. In the Judaic tradition, anyone can lead in prayer. You were magnificent! Kindest regards.

Sincerely,



Irving Kass, M.D.
Larson Professor of Medicine
Department of Internal Medicine
Head, Regional Chest Center

IK:mao





THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

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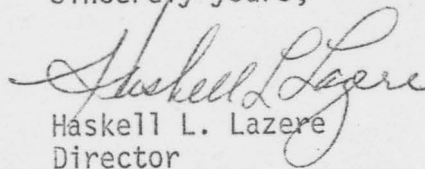
June 23, 1976

Mrs. Gerald Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Ford:

The presence of mind and the humanity and warmth you exhibited when you led the audience in prayer for Dr. Sage at the JNF dinner were moving beyond words. When I saw the report on television this morning I determined that I had write to praise you for what you did and the way in which you did it.

Sincerely yours,


Haskell L. Lazere
Director

HL:nb



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June 23, 1975

Mrs. Betty Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Ford,

I must express my ultimate esteem and admiration for your actions last night at the Hilton Hotel Convocation. Your spontaneous turn to prayer, while others tried to revive the fallen Rabbi, reveal in you an exquisitely beautiful and tender nature.

May life be gracious to you in the many years ahead.

Sincerely yours,

Paula Levitt

Paula Levitt
Associate Counsel

PL:st



JEWISH DAILY FORWARD

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June 25, 1976

Mrs. Betty Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Ford:

As a journalist and editor for the past forty years - 37 of them with this newspaper - I am privileged to have a platform to voice my opinions and even prejudices in writing for all to see. I cannot recall a prior single incident that moved me to write a "fan" letter to anyone for a public act as did your spontaneous prayer at the Jewish National Fund dinner when Dr. Maurice Sage collapsed on the dais.

In addition to the news report and editorial comment, which appeared in this newspaper, I felt a need to express to you personally my admiration for your eloquent prayer which moved me to tears, both when I heard your words on TV, and when I read them later in the newspapers.

It seems to me most remarkable that in the presence of so many Rabbis, close friends and associates of Dr. Sage, you were the one to respond to the emergency with a prayer. Although you were obviously under great emotional stress, your prayer - not taken from the Bible or prepared by a speech writer - was a magnificent one because it came from the heart.

I have often admired certain courageous positions you have taken on public issues. Your action at the Jewish National Fund dinner proved that in addition to First Lady, you are a great human being - a title that will never change to "former".

With great admiration,

SW/mh

Simon Weber
Simon Weber
Editor



June 23, 1976

Dear Mrs. Ford,

This is the first time I have tried a letter of this kind, but I do hope you will accept a little praise from a good old Iowa Democrat in regard to the exemplary way you conducted yourself and controlled a very sad and difficult situation in the death of Dr. Sage.

What presence of mind you displayed and how very beautifully you prayed. I really feel the entire nation joined with you - even during the news re-runs.

It seems to me our Country is in pretty good hands when the "Heart of the First Family" is so courageous and compassionate. We'll let the President be the "Head" of the Nation if you will continue to be the "Heart".

I think what may have seemed a simple gesture for you might well be one of the greatest things you have ever done.

I know it was not intended as a political act - and the people of this great Nation will recognize that also - the sincere concern for a fellow human being was beautiful.

Rest well tonight - you have done a great and noble thing.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Lyons

1011 9th St.

Corning, Ia. 50841

AUG

123



An Act of Faith

Through your contributions to the Jewish National Fund you play an important part in preserving the Land of Israel for your children and your children's children. With your support the land will remain green and the desert will be nourished with life. Your help now will constitute a tangible appreciation of the sacrifices and the heroism of those great Americans of all religious faiths who strove for liberty and justice. When you contribute to the American Bicentennial National Park, you strengthen the bond of our people both here and in Israel. Give your support today so that Israel may thrive and grow in the glory of fulfillment.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

I wish to plant a Woodland, 2500 trees	\$7500 ()
to plant a Grove, 1000 trees	\$3000 ()
to plant a Garden, 100 trees	\$ 300 ()
to reclaim a Dunam of Land	\$1000 ()
an inscription in THE BOOK OF THE FIRST	\$1776 ()
an inscription in THE GOLDEN BOOK	\$ 100 ()

I desire information on Founders, Patrons, Builders
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Enclosed please find \$ _____

() In honor of } _____
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Checks payable to JEWISH NATIONAL FUND, INC.
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JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

American Bicentennial National Park In Israel





Share with Us in Building the AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL NATIONAL PARK IN ISRAEL

בְּרֶק יִכָּל הַמֵּאֲתִים אֶל אֶרְצוֹת הַבְּרִית

The Jewish National Fund is building the land of Israel. Just as our founding fathers worked this soil 200 years ago to build the new land, today the people of Israel are working to reclaim their land. The Jewish National Fund of America has undertaken its most ambitious project—the development of the American Bicentennial National Park in Israel on the occasion of our 200th birthday. This once desolate stretch of land, thousands of acres nestled in the Judean Mountains southwest of Jerusalem, is being reclaimed and transformed into a green paradise of forests, roads, recreation areas, campsites and observation towers, dramatically bringing the neighboring settlements into the daily lifeline of modern Israel. You can share in the fulfillment of this dream.

This Beautiful Land

The Jewish National Fund is building the American Bicentennial National Park some 25 miles south of Jerusalem. This area of wild growth and spectacular scenery contains peaks reaching heights of 700 meters and is divided by many valleys and canyons making it the perfect site for the Park.

The region is rich in historical significance. The town of Beit Shemesh is mentioned in the First Book of Samuel (Ch. 6 V.9) as the Israelite city to which the Philistines returned the Ark of the Covenant. Archaeological excavations in the area have disclosed pottery, seals, inscriptions and jewelry—offering great insights into the past.

Turning this area into a National Park will greatly benefit the inhabitants living in the now rural areas and provide a vast tract for afforestation, tourism, recreation and agriculture.

Thus, the greening of the site will become a living monument—a tribute to our American Jewish Heritage.

The American Bicentennial National Park will Include *

1. A twelve kilometer road which will facilitate access from Jerusalem to the site of the park and link the settlements in the vicinity.
2. A special recreational area at the historic spring of Ein Giora.
3. A cavern of stalactites and stalagmites will be developed, to include natural tunnels for exploration.
4. The building of a spectacular Observation Tower on Mt. Ya'alah from which one can enjoy the breathtaking view of the Mediterranean Sea.
5. The restoration of the site of the existing "Forester's House." Also the creation of an information and display center depicting the many facilities and highlights of the Park.
6. The opening of the entire terrain to include six picnic and recreation areas and two camping sites.
7. The Pavilion of the States—Forests totalling one million trees in honor of the fifty states of the Union, planted over an expanse of 4000 dunams of land.
8. Tributes to both Jewish and non-Jewish heroes of the American Revolution who helped make America great. The Park will express, in landscape design and constructions, those pioneering values which fostered the twin blessings of peace and democracy.
9. Development of the infrastructure for five mountain settlements.

**Detailed information on special projects is available on application.*

The Bicentennial Park has been officially endorsed by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration

Link Your Name with History

How You Can Play an Important Role in Creating the Bicentennial Park

Become one of the 18 (Chai) Founders, 36 Patrons or 54 Builders. Your name will be perpetuated for all time in the Bicentennial Park in a manner befitting the category of participation. *Terms on application*

Become a Forester—You may plant a forest to be included in the Pavilion of the States. Forest of 10,000 trees \$25,000

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ish Families in the United States during the American Revolution.

Per Inscription \$1,776

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Per Dunam \$1,000

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Per Inscription \$100

Woodland of 2500 Trees

\$7,500

Grove of 1000 Trees

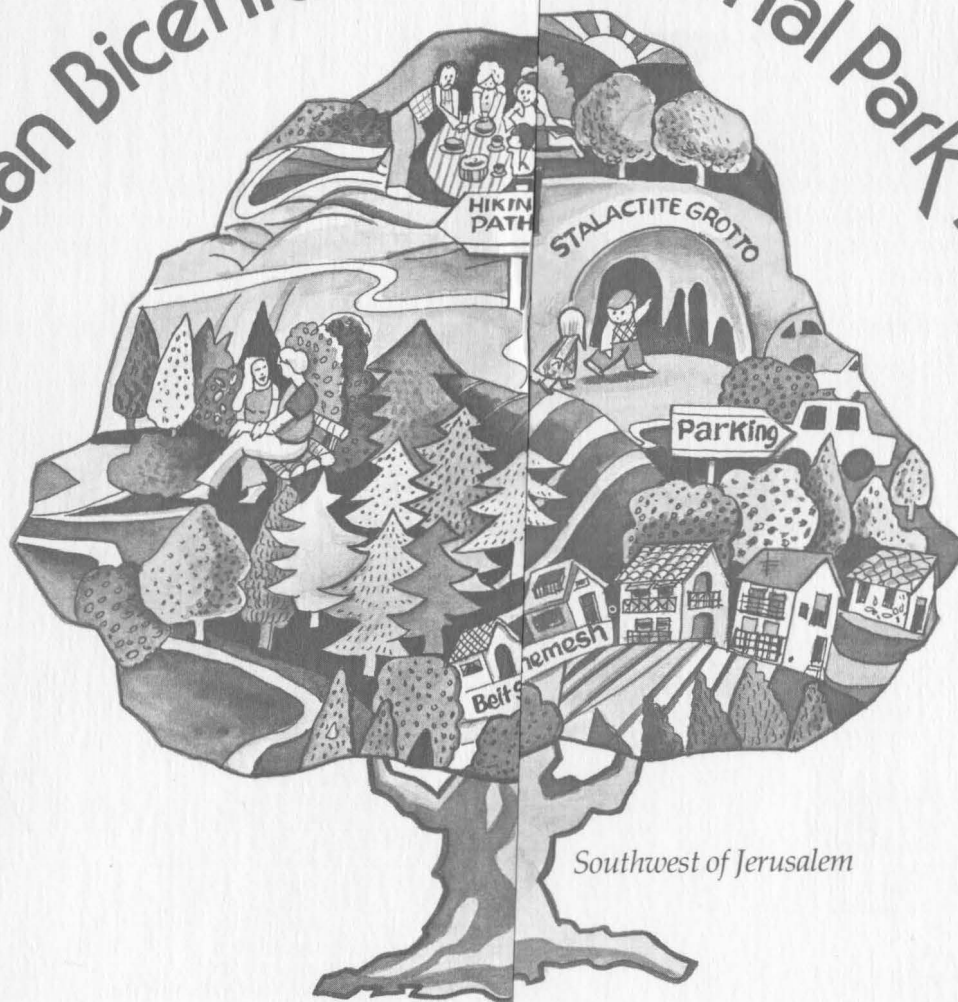
\$3,000

Garden of 100 Trees

\$300

Jewish National Fund

American Bicentennial National Park In Israel



Southwest of Jerusalem

You are cordially invited to . . .





Betty Ford
Our First Lady & Distinguished Guest

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American Bicentennial National Park in Israel** (In formation)

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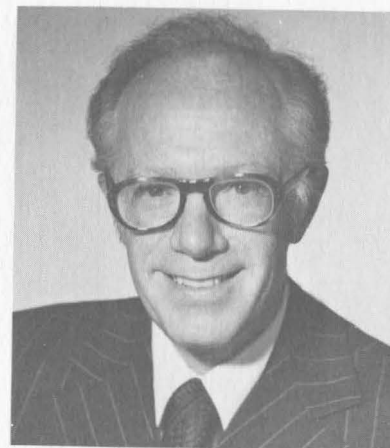
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*The Gala Jewish National Fund Dinner
to the American Bicentennial National Park in Israel*

Tuesday, June 22nd, 1976

The New York Hilton

Avenue of the Americas at 53rd Street

New York, N.Y.

Couvert \$300.00 per couple

Dress Optional

Reception six P.M.

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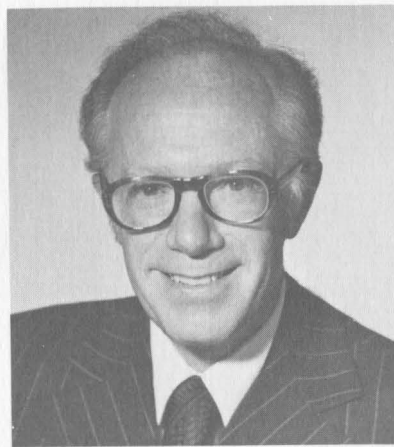
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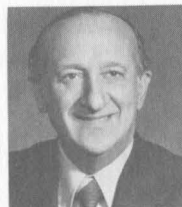
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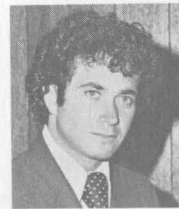
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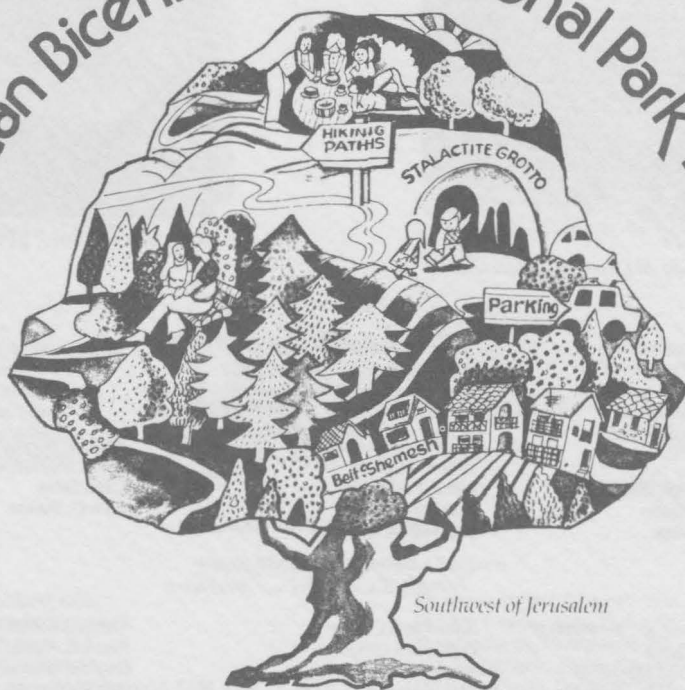
**American Bicentennial Park Ground-Breaking Ceremony,
July 4, 1976, in Israel**

*The American Bicentennial
National Park in Israel will strengthen
the bonds of friendship between the peoples
of the United States and Israel.*



Jewish National Fund makes Israel green.

American Bicentennial National Park In Israel



Gala National Bicentennial Dinner Jewish National Fund of America



Tuesday, June 22nd, 1976

The New York Hilton





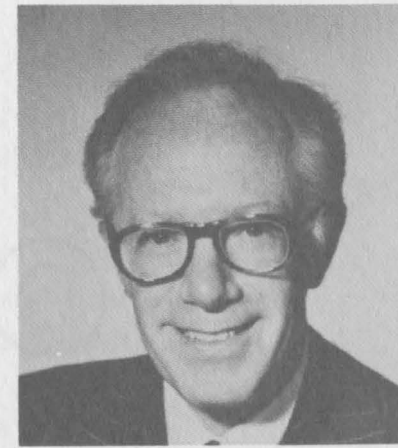
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Our First Lady & Distinguished Guest



President of Israel, EPHRAIM KATZIR



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Program

ZAL VENET, *Chairman*

Introduction of Dais Guests

Presentation of Colors

National Anthems CANTOR JOSEPH MALOVANY

Invocation RABBI HAROLD H. GORDON

Hamotzi STANLEY DUBROW

*

DINNER

*

MEYER PESIN, *Chairman*

Bicentennial Blessings
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THE HON. ABRAHAM BEAME
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JOHN WARNER
Administrator, American Revolution Bicentennial Administration
Introduced by ISADORE LEMMERMAN

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World Chairman, Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael

LEON DULZIN
Treasurer, Jewish Agency, Jerusalem
Introduced by HERBERT BRODY

HIS EXCELLENCY SIMCHA DINITZ
Ambassador of Israel to the United States
Introduced by MILTON PERLMUTTER

PRESENTATION OF FLOWERS TO MRS. PAROLY
by TEX McCRARY

DR. MAURICE S. SAGE
President, Jewish National Fund of America

FIRST LADY, MRS. BETTY FORD

PRESENTATION OF FLOWERS TO MRS. BETTY FORD
by HELENE MAKINEN

KEY TO BICENTENNIAL PARK
Presented to MILTON HOFFMAN

BERNARD PAROLY
Guest of Honor
Introduced by GLEN ROSENGARTEN

RESPONSE



The Bicentennial Park will bring to life a region which has been a wilderness since Biblical times. This desolate stretch of land is being reclaimed and transformed into a green paradise of forests, roads, recreation areas, campsites and observation towers, dramatically bringing the neighboring settlements into the daily lifeline of modern Israel.

Roll of Honor

PARTICIPANTS IN THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL PARK*
(a project of the Jewish National Fund of America)

Bicentennial Builders

Feldman Foundation, Dallas, Tx.
Blanca Roven, Los Angeles, Ca.
Abraham Spiegel, Los Angeles, Ca.

Recreation Area Donors

Bonnie View Country Club, Baltimore, Md.
Hon. Michael J. Howlett, Chicago, Ill.
Frieda, Max & Phillip Stollman, Detroit, Mich.

Foresters

U.S. PRESIDENT, GERALD R. FORD and
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Jacques Amsellem, Paris, France
Makloul Amsellem, Paris, France
Bonnie View Country Club, Baltimore, Md.
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Nathan Cummings, New York, N.Y.
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Israel & Rose Schwartz, Miami Beach, Fla.
Jeannie Shugerman, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Arthur & Rita Sichel, Miami Beach, Fla.
Leo & Dora Zipper, New York, N.Y.

Organizational Projects above regular annual intake

B'nai B'rith, Recreation Area
Greater New York L.Z.A., Observation Post
Hadassah Plaza
Labor Zionist Alliance, 75,000 trees
Philadelphia JNF Council, 100,000 trees
Pioneer Women, toward Ein Giora Recreational Area
(Other organizational projects in preparation)

*as of June 22, 1976



American Bicentennial Park Ground-Breaking Ceremony, July 4, 1976, in Israel

*The American Bicentennial
National Park in Israel will strengthen
the bonds of friendship between the peoples
of the United States and Israel.*



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Major Speaker :
Gala Natl Bicentennial Dinner



Guest Speaker
The Honorable Simcha Dinitz
Israeli Ambassador to the United States

Mr. Simcha Dinitz was born in Israel in 1929. Graduated B.S. (Cum Laude) in Foreign Service from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and obtained an M.S. Degree in International Law as well. Since 1958 he has served in the Foreign Ministry in various capacities. Represented Israel in the United Nations between 1963-66. In 1966 he was Minister at the Embassy in Rome and in 1968 Minister in Washington. In 1969 he served as political advisor to former Prime Minister Golda Meir. Since 1973 serves his country with dignity in the United States.

The Religious Zionists of America is proud to have Ambassador Dinitz grace its platform.



At the request of
Jey McCrady, I am

DR. MAURICE S. SAGE

sending you the
attached copy.

767 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2711, New York, N.Y. 10022
(212) Plaza 2.3886

In this year of the Diamond Jubilee of our Jewish National Fund - in this Bicentennial Year of our nation - we are deeply honored by the presence of America's First Lady, who has come here to help us launch our campaign for the most substantial and most meaningful participation by any foreign nation in America's 200th birthday celebration: The Bicentennial Park in Jerusalem, to be dedicated on July 4.

That inspiring Park will commemorate not only the heroes of the American Revolution, but will also enshrine the shared pioneering spirit of the visionaries, the patriots, the builders, the citizen-soldiers who have been common both to the 200-year-old heritage of America, and to the 2,000-year-old dream of all Jews.

Israel and America do share so many dreams, and so much more - going back to the time the Puritans named this brave new nation, "New Canaan", and gave to their villages Biblical names like Salem and Jericho and Palestine and Bethlehem - and gave their children Biblical names like Daniel and Jonathan and Esther and Ruth and Enoch and Ezra and Rachel...

And it was the sixth President of the United States - John Quincy Adams, son of the second President - who wrote back in 1825 a letter to Major Mordecai Manuel Noah, in which he advocated strongly - and I quote: "the rebuilding of Judea as an independent nation!"



And just 12 minutes after Israel finally declared its independence only 28 embattled years ago, President Truman gave to that new nation, America's official recognition! And President Truman's quick support has been matched by the five Presidents who followed him.

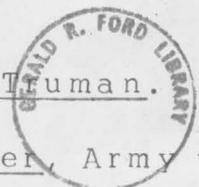
And incidentally, President Truman is a very special hero not only to Israel, but also to President Ford. Yes, did you know that one of the first decisions President Ford made after he took the oath of office, was the selection of the three portraits of former Presidents, which traditionally hang in the Cabinet Room in the White House. And the choices of President Ford were - President Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican - and President Dwight David Eisenhower, perhaps the most revered Republican. But then to complete the triangle, a bipartisan choice, his very special hero, President Harry S. Truman, Democrat!

And President Ford's First Lady, our Honored Guest tonight, shares qualities of other First Ladies from "both sides of the aisle" as they say in Washington. As a chemist, let me name the elements of her character:

The independent spirit and the boundless energy of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

The devotion to husband and family of Mrs. Bess Truman.

The strong sense of duty of Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower, Army wife.



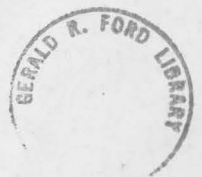
The beauty of Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy.

The strength and warmth of Mrs. Ladybird Johnson.

And the resilience of Mrs. Pat Nixon.

And beyond all those qualities, in the chemistry of her character, there is a unique zest for living all her own, a quality for which we have a word - "Lachaim - to life!"

Refreshing - pure - uplifting - all the qualities America so needs in this Bicentennial Year, all of them radiating from our beloved First Lady - Mrs. Betty Ford!



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 17, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: KAYE PULLEN
FROM: MILT MITLER *Handwritten initials*
SUBJECT: THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND,
AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL PARK

Following is the information you requested.

- This program to produce a recreation area in a park about 25 kilometers southwest of Jerusalem was established to commemorate this nation's 200 years of independence.
- The park site is on land owned by the Jewish National Fund and will be maintained by that agency's counterpart in Israel.
- The plan is to turn a ^{WILDERNESS} ~~forest~~ into a recreation area complete with hotels, picnic and recreation areas, swimming, etc. - a complete complex for tourists.
- The first phase will be to plant 1,000 acres to be followed by another 1,000 acres. There will be two forests planted for each state in our union - each forest contains 25,000 trees.
- The area has biblical significance and is purported to be where David fought Goliath. It is about 45 minutes from Jerusalem in the Judean Mountains.
- At the present time, there is no recreation area for the settlements surrounding the site.
- So far, 53 Senators and 17 Governors have joined the program as supporters.
- The project will eventually cost about 6.0 million, and thus far, they have raised about one third. It is funded entirely from contributions.



- The Jewish National Fund has planted over 130 million trees in Israel and will be celebrating 75 years of accomplishment. The Fund is the largest land owner in Israel next to the State.
- The Park will be dedicated on July 4th in ceremonies there. This is 10 years to the date on which they dedicated the John F. Kennedy Memorial Park.
- They call this project a miniature Yellowstone Park.
- The Reception will begin at 6:00 and last for about 45 minutes. No receiving line is expected.
- Mrs. Ford will be introduced by Dr. Maurice S. Sage, President of the Jewish National Fund. Other speakers will include Mayor Beame and Israeli Ambassador Dinitz.
- Press will cover the dinner.

