present location it is now surrounded by business and residence and hotel
and cinema structures, although the buildings of the ASOR are set back far
enough in their grounds so that the street noises are not disturbing. The
question was also raised as to whether the ASOR should sell out and leave
Israel altogether and operate only in Arab countries. There was a long and
lively discussion, with perhaps everything not being said as openly as it
might if I were not present, - although I don't think so. I forgot to say
that Gus van Beek and his wife Colynn were present too. One of the state-
ments made dealt with "what the ASOR owed to the Arab world"! The answer
that several gave, including John Warrington and myself, was that as a
scientific school the ASOR owed nothing to anybody, and had to be guided
by the most objective scientific considerations only. Another statement was
made, not too clearly but it was there anyway, that if the ASOR operated in
territories controlled by Israel, the Arab world would not permit it to
engage in archaeological activities in its areas. Our answer was that the
ASOR was operating in Jordan and that if the objectives of the ASOR were to
be guided by political considerations, there was no certainty of its being
able to operate at all. The Arab governments, with the exception of Jordan,
were and are all anti-American anyway, as evinced again in their almost
unanimous agreeing with Russia's invasion of Czechoslovakia and associating
themselves with the preposterous claim that it was aimed against imperialism
and America and Zionism. How Zionism got dragged into the picture by the
Russians is beyond me, but there you are.

The conversation continued to the effect that there was plenty of room
in Israel for two American schools, namely the HUCBASJ and the ASOR,