

27. Oct. 30, 1952

9:50 A.M. We are really beginning to hit the Greece mainland, - high hills in the distance. Landed at Athens at 9:55 A.M. (Israel time), and 10:55 A.M. (Athen time). It is hot and dry in the airport. Little courtesies such as teas and coffee at the airport through the courtesy of TWA, which also forwards mail free of charge which passengers write on the plane. - The steward and stewardess on the plane are Israelis. - Lv. Aths at 10:56 A.M. - We are to fly at 12,000 ft., and it will take about 3 hours to Rome.

Dr. Senator spoke about my unofficial connections with the University, in years gone by and expressed the hope that within a reasonable amount of time, I would return and stay permanently in Israel. He referred to the conversation, without saying so, that he had had with me about a week or so previously, in which he in effect offered me the Presidency of the Hebrew University, - an offer which was repeated by the Prime Minister Ben Gurion several days ago when I saw him in his office prior to walking with him with a detective behind us to his house, for the lunch which he was giving in my honor, and which was attended by Dinaburg, Maisler and Schwabe. I had had to tell ~~Senator~~ Ben Gurion what I told Senator, that at the present, which could be interpreted as being for about five years more, I could not see my way clear to leaving the Hebrew Union College, and that of course the University could not wait for me. I am of course deeply flattered and deeply moved by the repeated and pressing invitation to accept the presidency of the Hebrew University, but if for no other reason, then because of Charles, I could not leave America now. I don't think I have the right to tear up his roots in America, particularly in view of the psychological harm already done him by my being away from home so many years before and during the war. Helen would and could possibly leave and carry on her medical research work in Jerusalem, although not as well as in Cincinnati, but I think the effect upon Charles now would be calamitous. I may be rationalizing and using him as an excuse, but I don't think so.

Maisler (Mazar) then spoke, and really in a wonderful manner summed up the nature and quantity and significance of the work in Transjordan that I have accomplished during the years from 1932 to 1952. I sat back and listened and wondered if indeed I could be the person he was speaking about, and really thinking that the person he was speaking about was almost somebody else. It is like when I have finished a book. With the exception perhaps of The River Jordan, I cease to have a personal relationship to it. Maisler gave a synthesis of the work and publications that are associated with me, of the mass of details and significance of historical conclusions that I have drawn. It made me feel proud and humble. Actually, what I feel most is that I have had a wonderful lot of fun doing all that work, and am a very lucky fellow to have been able to do it, and get a good deal of it published thus far. It will be swell if I ever catch up with myself so far as the scientific publications of my archaeological work is concerned, that is the publication in final form.

I was then called upon to speak, talked about why I was and always would be interested in the archaeology of the Holy Land, expressed my gratitude for the reception accorded me everywhere and in all circles since my coming to Israel, described briefly some of the new scientific results of my archaeological explorations during this month, and expressed my very strong feeling of confidence in the future of Israel, despite the weariness and disappointment and hardships and trials of the present. It is a fact, that most of the people of Israel are so bogged down by the difficulties of making a living and getting some amount of constructive work done, that there is a tendency to lose sight of the total accomplishments past and present of Israel in view of the

multitude of plaguing particulars, of losing sight of the forest and its riches because of seeing only the trees. I really feel this time, after seeing the modern copper mines, the Machtsh, the Mif'al Kishon, ~~xxxx~~ the new basic chemical plant, in Haifa, the new roads springing up everywhere, Bersheba and