

would not be liked by the military. I had asked and gotten permission to bring along some seven members of the Hebrew Union College Biblical and Archaeological School of Jerusalem in two small cars. I suggested to the military attache that we need not drive directly with the President's convoy but would drive some 200 to 500 meters behind, and therefore no problems were involved. He accepted that readily, and so I plan to take Bill Dever, Ezra Spicehandler, Dick Scheuer and Father William Casey, who is now ensconced in the American School of Oriental Research, and several others along.

In the course of the conversations, our discussion turned to the ancient boundaries of Israel and I pointed out to the President, what I had said at his Residency the day before, that under Solomon they extended from the "entrance to Hamath" in southern Syria down to the Brook of Egypt, which bisects most or much of central Sinai. I told him I had dealt rather extensively with the problem of these boundaries in my book, RIVERS IN THE DESERT. He asked me to get him a copy of the Hebrew edition which bears the title of AFIQIM BA-NEGEV. I was pretty sure I had given him one some years ago, but perhaps it was to his predecessor, the late President Isaac Ben Zvi. So I am scurrying around town to try to find a copy of the book, which in Hebrew is now out of print. I explained to the President that the boundary lines indicated by the description of "from Dan to Beersheba," referred only to the most thickly inhabited parts of ancient Israel, but that the outermost limits were variously described in the Bible as those that I have listed above.

Father William Casey, Director Designate of the American School of Oriental Research, arrived from Rome the day before yesterday. There is very little for him to do, particularly in view of the fact that Professor G. Ernest Wright, President of the American School of Oriental Research, had authorized me to take complete charge of the ASOR and make any such dispositions as I deemed best. I had Father Casey introduced to our Consul-General, Mr. Evan Wilson, and then taken through Mandelbaum Gate to the ASOR, and to the American Consulate branch, where one of the consuls obtained a pass for him. Father Casey returned to the HUCBASJ

and stayed here Saturday night, but we moved him, in accordance with his wish, to the ASOR yesterday. It is impossible to take any of the ASOR cars out of the ASOR compound at the present time, because they all have Jordan licence plates, and some time will elapse till they can be changed. He rented a Hertz car here yesterday. I was a bit surprised that one was available, in view of the general requisitioning of cars by the armed forces, including our cars. There are no fellows or students at the ASOR and there will be no excavations conducted by the ASOR that can utilize it as headquarters under existing conditions, so I don't know what Father Casey can do. We have three American Consulate families living there now, and I am anxious that they remain there. The situation at the ASOR is a fluid one and I shall make such dispositions as are necessary in the course of the near future. We shall include Father Casey in any travel or work plans that may develop here at the HUCBASJ. I have not yet thought it possible, and Dr. Dever agrees with me, to attempt to set a date yet this summer for renewal of our Gezer excavations, which I cancelled on June 5, nor to set a new date for our annual summer Institute on Near Eastern Civilization. Dr. Zev Vilnay, who has written such excellent travel books on Israel, and usually accompanies our Summer Institutes on their travels through the country, phoned me yesterday to say that he would not be available and free from army duties for about a month. He is to phone and consult with me next week again.

When we took Father Casey to the ASOR yesterday, I learned that the shop of my very good friend, Levon Ohan, an Armenian, had been looted late Saturday afternoon, at about 4:30 P.M. It is located in the Old City across from the Lutheran Church. The curfew there begins at 3 P.M. I immediately, together with Bill and Norma Dever, Ezra Spicehandler, John Landgraf and Dick Scheuer, went into the Suq to try to find his shop. We met a young Arab, who told us where Ohan lived, which is not far from the ASOR. We turned back, and found his residence near the Palace Hotel, close to the ASOR. It was quite a reunion. I hadn't seen him for twenty years, but over the years we had maintained contact through mutual friends. I knew his father and his father's antiquity