

debt to Israel, which could be paid not through money, but through participation in work in the land by sending hundreds of thousands of their sons and daughters to work here for a year or two, with the hope that many of them would settle permanently. Dr. Jacobovitz spoke about the unity of Israel in times of stress, - a unity he said that was reflected in the fact that he and I were there together. Finally, the President called on me, for maftir, he said. I spoke for about five minutes, saying how grateful we all were to God for the miracle of salvation that had occurred, and that all of us could say and did say with fullest hearts, Hallelujah. I said that while I was proudly a native American, I have long felt myself to be passionately a spiritual son of Jerusalem, and that among the things I was most proud of was the fact that I was an honorary citizen of Beersheba and an honorary citizen of Eilat. That even as I considered the Jordan River, although one of the smallest of the famous streams of the world, to be in many ways its most sacred, I felt that Jerusalem represented the center of the heartland of the conscience of mankind; furthermore, I felt the Holy Land to be the center of the heartland of the world, and my hope was that this physical and spiritual centrality might be maintained to the blessing of Israel and of all mankind. Later on, the President invited me to come and see him in his office the next day, about which I have written above.

June 19, 1967. Monday. This morning, Bill Dever, Dick Scheuer and Ruth Amiran (who has been lecturing for four months on Palestinian Archaeology at Columbia University) and I drove to Gezer to see how our camp was faring and whether anything had happened to it since it has been without a guard for about a month. The Bedouins who were camped nearby previously, and from among whose number we had taken a guard for the camp, had returned to the Negev, and may not return again at all. We then looked at the results of the six days of excavation that Bill Dever was able to carry out this spring with about 35 volunteer assistants, including Dr. Spicehandler, Rabbi Harold Saperstein and the HUC students who were here at the time. The most important result was exposing the undoubtedly Solomonic Gate of the city, which Macalister had excavated more than fifty years ago, and then reburied, but which he