

Israel feature

Jerusalem 2020

(Cont. from page B9.)

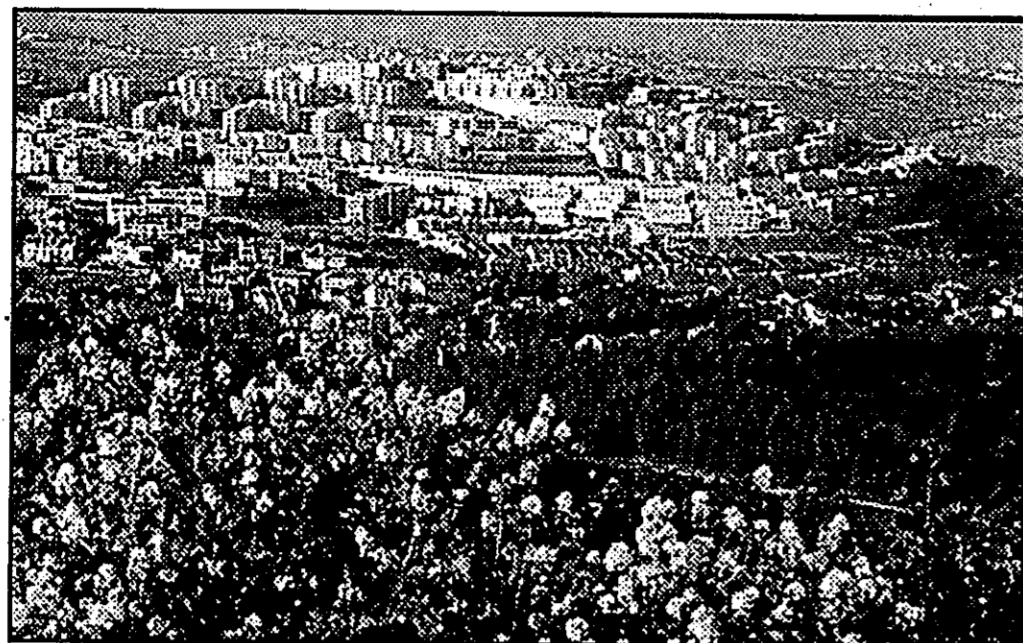
A monumental work of long-range planning, the strategic master plan strives to present a clear vision of the city up to the year 2020. It expresses the dilemma between the small, intimate and traditional city which Jerusalem was, and still is in some measure, with the large, dynamic, modern and powerful capital city with an international and cosmopolitan atmosphere that city fathers envision for the future. And while the master plan will have no statutory force, even after its approval by the city council, the plan will serve as an agreed-upon basis for developing future operative plans, laying out directions for action and various alternatives for attaining aims.

The cost of preparing the plan was covered from the city budget, with additional assistance from the Joint Distribution Committee-Israel.

"A city, in general and Jerusalem, in particular, has to know where it is going," states Jerusalem architect and former deputy mayor David Cassuto, one of the prime initiators of the plan and chair of its steering committee. "Jerusalem with its social, cultural, municipal and physical problems, will not be prepared for the future if it does not plan ahead. A master plan is one of the basics for a city which wants to control its future and not be controlled by events."

From those interviewed for the plan, which included politicians, students, academics, residents, representatives of various groups in the city and Jewish groups abroad, five central themes emerged. One, the need to preserve the city's unique character. Two, the need to preserve the status of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, a city holy to three religions and the center of Jewish people. Three, the need to coordinate between physical, economic, social cultural and regional factors. Four, the need to strengthen the city in the context of a Jewish and Arab metropolitan area. And five, the need to enable the city's various groups to develop their own community life.

The master plan is based upon three assumptions: that there will be peace in Jerusalem, the city will remain united, and that it will remain under Israeli control.



The suburb of Ramot in northern Jerusalem: Master plan calls for preserving the current ratio of 70 per cent Jews in Jerusalem, and 30 per cent Arabs. WZPS photo.

The master plan estimates (based on scientific projections) that the city will grow by 2020 to a population of approximately 900,000 residents (up from some 600,000 today).

And while the plan has been criticized for being "fuzzy", lacking specifics, not relating to ultra-Orthodox/secular relations or Arab-Jewish relations within the city, and totally ignoring the influence of the Palestinian Authority with respect to eastern Jerusalem, it has managed to be specific enough to stir up some controversy.

The plan is based upon the premise that the city will be able to preserve the current ratio of 70 per cent Jews to 30 per cent Arabs.

Hebrew University Professor Sergio DellaPergola, who headed the master plan's demographic-social team, points out that there is a negative migration of Jews out of the city. At present, this involves some 5,000 to 6,000 persons a year, but the trend is increasing. Those leaving the city come from all segments of the Jewish population, but the bulk are young couples with children and higher socioeconomic groups.

This has led to fears that Jerusalem will become a city of the poor, elderly, ultra-Orthodox and Arabs,

which will significantly weaken the city's social structure and tax revenue base.

DellaPergola notes that in bandying about the 70:30 ratio, most people are really talking about two ratios - between Jews and Arabs and between the ultra-Orthodox and the remaining Jewish population.

Projections show that by 2020, at the current rates of natural increase and migration, the city will be 62 per cent Jewish and 38 per cent Arab. Some 32 per cent of the Jewish population will be from areas with high birthrates. In the non-ultra-Orthodox, non-Arab sections of the city, the population will become increasingly elderly. And in the 0 to 4 year old age group, the Jewish/Arab ratio will be 54:46. This does not bode well for the 70:30 ratio beyond 2020. In addition, the socio-economic level of the city will continue to fall.

"The main problem facing Jerusalem is a demographic one," Cassuto maintains. "The truth is that the Arab and ultra-Orthodox populations are growing faster than the rest of the population. Jerusalem has to be able to hold onto and attract additional secular Jewish residents. We have to work on attracting them by creating jobs, increasing high tech and strengthening higher education."

One solution, and possibly the easiest, to preserving the 70:30 ratio, is to expand city boundaries to the west, annexing the mainly secular Jewish suburbs. The idea has been bandied around in the past and engendered fierce opposition from the residents of the surrounding suburbs.

Whether the city decides to formally annex its suburbs or not, it will still have to work out some form of cooperation for a greater Jerusalem metropolitan area.

From a number of alternatives, the plan chose as its preferred option an umbrella municipality, which would concentrate all large-scale municipal functions or those with clear regional influence, such as culture and environment, under one authority. It would also be a formal body providing statutory force for a system of cooperation and would have clear delineation of division of authority between the umbrella framework and the local authorities. In addition, it would enable a minimal reduction in the status of the cooperating local authorities.

The umbrella municipality would plan and coordinate municipal activities from a metropolitan viewpoint. It would represent the metropolitan region before the central government, as well as promote its interests by initiating economic, tourism, national and international projects. This body would be responsible for providing metropolitan services such as sewage and roads, and would have authority over physical planning, economic development, infrastructure, regional transportation, tourism and regional institutions. An expanded city also raised the issue of how Jerusalem would be organized and administered so as to preserve some of the intimacy of contact between residents and local government, while dealing with the needs of a large metropolitan region.

The plan's answer is for the city to be reorganized and divided into five to eight districts, with up to 200,000 residents in each.

"This is not intended to add another governmental layer, but to establish a way of administering the city to enable it to reach residents most efficiently," explains architect Mike Turner, head of the master plan's physical planning team.

The division of the city into districts will take into account topography, the composition of the communities living in the district, economic factors and functionality. The guiding principle will be social heterogeneity while maintaining demographic balance in the district.

"We have been able to create a plan which has the approval of the mayor and, hopefully, soon that of the city council, and which advocates growth and development together with quality of life," says Cassuto. "This plan represents a serious effort on the part of the city to articulate a coherent vision of Jerusalem for the 21st century."

- WZPS.

Israel feature: Immigrants



Recent young immigrants from the U.S. get to know each other at an ice cream party held at the Israel Center in Jerusalem. WZPS photo by Vera Etzion.

The Israel Center - a home away from home in Jerusalem

For the past 20 years, the Israel Center has been one of the most important portals for English speaking residents and visitors to Jerusalem....

By SARAH HERSHENSON

For the past 20 years, the Israel Center, located on 10 Strauss Street, has been one of the most important portals for English-speaking residents and visitors to Jerusalem. Thousands of people have gone up the brightly-painted staircase, past the mural of Jerusalem, to the lounge and classrooms of this welcoming "home away from home".

"This attitude is part of our overall goal," says Center Director Menachem Persoff. "We aim to provide a normative and apolitical view of Judaism, whether through lectures, classes, self help groups, or simply by answering social or practical needs."

"People are our priority," he adds. "If we run a class or lecture series that's been specially requested and only a few people come, we will continue it. The fact that those who suggested it showed up means they have a real need and desire for it."

"I would say," continues Persoff, "that about 70 per cent of those who come to lectures are from traditional or Orthodox backgrounds. The other 30 per cent are people who find the open atmosphere at the center conducive to learning."

Education has been British-born Persoff's lifetime work. With degrees in Education and Psychology from London University, Persoff's credentials run the gamut from developing new computer based educational materials, to having been the deputy director of the Jewish Agency Educational Resource Center at Kiryat Moriah, and to developing programs for the Jewish Agency for new immigrants from the Former Soviet Union.

One of these programs, Project Tikva (Hope), has been in existence for the last 10 years and is regarded as the foremost counseling program for new Russian immigrants in Israel. Currently offered at the Israel Center under the direction of psychologist Zina Shmaruk, the program deals with such problems as acculturation, religious identity, and family dislocation. Offering psychodrama workshops, lectures and a hot line, Tikva provides ongoing assistance to these immigrants in their struggle to integrate into Israeli society.

Another program - NESTO - is geared for English-speaking teenagers from North America who have made aliya with their families. Directed by Avi Silverman and Rabbi Michael Friedman, 100 teenagers from up and down the country are currently participating in the program which aims to help make and strengthen contacts between new immigrants. "One recent event," says the center's Ita Rachel Russek, "was an ice cream party attended by 25 teens from the Jerusalem area. It was great fun and provided the kids with an opportunity to establish a network of acquaintances and friendships."

"Between 600 and 700 people of all ages and from all walks of life use the center on a weekly basis,

attending lectures, movies, concerts and workshops," continues Russek. "In addition to the regulars, there are also many who come to read our bulletin board, or to meet people and converse in English. There are even those who just take a copy of Torah Tidbits and walk out."

Torah Tidbits is the center's weekly magazine and contains summaries and interpretations of the weekly Torah portion, explanations about Jewish rites and rituals, a children's page, and advertisements and notices about what is happening in Jerusalem.

(Cont. on page B12. See "Israel Center".)

Legal services below extend Chanukah greetings



Happy Chanukah to all our friends and clients

AIKINS, MACAULAY & THORVALDSON

BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS
PATENT AND TRADE-MARK AGENTS

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. LORNE CAMPBELL, O.C., Q.C., LL.D. | JOHN S. LAMONT, Q.C. | ROGER J. HANSELL, Q.C. | MICHAEL J. MERCURY, Q.C. |
| HON. DUNCAN J. JESSIMAN, Q.C., LL.D. | A.J. (TELLY) MERCURY, Q.C. | MARTIN H. FREDMAN, Q.C. | JAMES E. FORAN, Q.C. |
| KNOX B. FOSTER, Q.C. | RAYMOND H. G. FLETT, Q.C. | J. TIMOTHY SAMSON, Q.C. | WINSTON F. SMITH, Q.C. |
| CYRIL G. LABMAN | LARRY R. CRANE, Q.C. | BRYAN D. KLEIN | CHARLES F. CHIAPPELL |
| COLIN R. McARTHUR, Q.C. | THOMAS F. DOOLEY | ROB E. STEPHENSON, Q.C. | GERALD D. PARKINSON |
| JOEL A. WEINSTEIN, Q.C. | DUNCAN B. JESSIMAN, Q.C. | EDWARD L. WARKENTIN | E. BRUCE PARKER |
| JUDITH M. BLAIR | E. WELLS PEPPER, Q.C. | DAVID R. VOECHTING | ROBERT G. SLY |
| DARYL J. ROSIN | JAMES A. FERGUSON | KEVIN R. BOLT | G. BRUCE TAYLOR |
| RICHARD L. VAPPE | FRANK LAVITT | ROBERT T. GABOR, Q.C. | HERBERT J. PETERS |
| G. TODD CAMPBELL | J. MILTON CHRISTIANSEN | LOUI T. SPIVAK | DAVID M. CARRICK |
| BARBARA M. SHIELDS | BETTY A. JOHNSTONE | PAYLYN KATZ | L. WILLIAM BOWLES |
| JONATHAN B. KROFT | KRISTIN L. GIBSON | J. DOUGLAS SIGURDSON | JOHN R. BRADY |
| CATHERINE E. CARLSON | WILLIAM K. A. EMSLIE | ALLAN F. FORAN | JAMES C. R. LUDLOW |
| J. GUY JOUBERT | THOR J. HANSELL | BRIAN D. LERNER | CARMELE N. PETER |
| MARILYNNE RYDALLEN | MICHAEL E. GUTTORMSON | CARMELE N. PETER | BARBARA S. McDONALD |
| THEODOR E. BOCK | HELEGA D. VAN DERSTINE | MICHELLE R. REDEKOPF | NIGEL J. THOMPSON |
| HARLEY C. BOLES | GRAHAM E. ROBSON | DAVID P. NEUGUS | DAVID C. FLEMING |
| TYLER J. KOCHANSKI | STEVEN J. KOHN | KATHRYN J. DURKIN | R. REIS PACTACHIAN |
| DAVID M. WRIGHT | ROBERT C. LEE | STEVEN M. LONDON | JENNIFER J. B. BURNELL |
| GREGORY M. FLEETWOOD | NICOLE M. WATSON | ADAM R. HERSTEIN | COLIN PEWARIKUK |
| GORDON M. PETERS | LUCIA M. STUHLDRIEER | CURTIS M. UNFRIED | BRENT C. ROSS |
| MARLA S. SINGER | TODD W. THOMSON | JENNIFER J. JONES | KETH C. EYRIKSON |
| BRIAN T. D. BOWMAN | SHANDRA N. BRESOLINE | | JAMES A. MERCURY |

COUNSEL: ARTHUR V. MAURO, O.C., Q.C., KSO., LL.D., D.COMM. PATENT AGENT: MURRAY E. THIRIFF

SR. JAMES AIKINS, K.B., K.C., LL.D. (1879-1928) JOHN A. MACAULAY, Q.C., LL.D. (1919-1978)
G.H. AIKINS, D.S.O., Q.C., LL.D. (1910-1954) HON. G.S. THORVALDSON, Q.C. (1923-1969)

30th Floor Commodity Exchange Tower, 360 Main Street,
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 4G1

Tel: (204) 957-0050 Fax: (204) 957-0840 E-Mail: amt@aikins.com Web Site: www.aikins.com



Legal service below wishes friends & clients A Happy Chanukah



We wish you all a Very Happy Chanukah!

- Harold Buchwald, C.M., Q.C., LL.D.
Edward D. Brown
Douglas G. Ward, Q.C.
Richard J. Handlon
Roger W. Wight
John T. McGoey
Martin S. Minuk
Robert B. Giesbrecht
Bruce H. King
Robert A. Watchman
Mark R. Beard
Murray W. Froese
Conrad L. Wyrzykowski
Catherine E. Howden
Tina Giesbrecht
Karen A. Johnston
Candace Everard

- Peter M. Ramsay
Alvin R. McGregor, Q.C.
Joseph D. Barnsley
Andrew D.M. Ogaranko, Q.C.
William S. Gardner
Norm Promislow
Thomas J.D. Kormylo
Richard S. Literovich
David B.N. Ramsay
Campbell G. Wright
Jeff A. Baigrie
Michael J. Hicks
Rodney E. Shannon
E. Scott Ransom
Judith R. A. Payne
Richmond J. Bayes
Elsy Gagne

- Walter S. Saranchuk, Q.C.
Philip M. Sheps
John R. Toone
Donald A. Primeau
Charles N. Guberman
Randall M. Gray
Robert P. Sokalski
Howard P. Nerman
Howard L. Morry
Thomas W. Turner
Tracey L. Epp
Dale M. Ammeter
Sandra E. Kilman
Richard D. Buchwald
Sean D. Shore
Kevin P. Dooley
Dayna S. Anderson

- Counsel: Yude M. Henteleff, C.M., Q.C.
Allan Cantor, Q.C.
David G. Newman, Q.C.

- I.H. Asper, O.C., Q.C., LL.D., Ph. D., O.M.
Jack R. London, Q.C.
Bryan Schwartz, J.S.D. (Yale)

Pitblado Buchwald Asper

BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

2500-360 Main Street, Winnipeg, MB Canada R3C 4H6 Tel. (204) 956 0560 Fax (204) 957 0227 E-mail firm@pba-law.com