

Age - In answer to our age question, Jo Romanelli, who is in charge of the Absorption Centers, stressed that as a Garin we won't have any problems in the acceptance of "elderly" members of our group into the Absorption Center framework.

Ulpan - As to the various levels of Hebrew, Jo advised to test the Hebrew level of all Shlav Alef olim and to report back as soon as possible (please note the relevant paragraph in my opening letter on page 3).

Collateral - Vered and Avital assured us that as a Garin backed by the Settlement Department, we will have no problems concerning collateral to the housing mortgages we will be getting from the Ministry of Housing through the commercial banks.

Mortgage - As mortgages are quoted in shekels, and not in dollars, due to the "steady" devaluation every few months "adjustments" are being made. Avital promised to send us the post "October 25% devaluation" adjustment in the near future.

Retraining - This falls in the jurisdiction of Avital Toch (from the Settlement Section in the Absorption Ministry). Within 3 years of his Aliyah, the oleh is entitled to one year job retraining. The Absorption Ministry helps finance the project by reimbursing the employer who conducts the retraining for a full one year salary paid by him to the oleh.

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Reform Movement to start village on Galilee hilltop

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — It's a long way from pledging to settle in Galilee during a weekend conference in Massachusetts to trekking to see the bare hilltop in Galilee earmarked for the settlement.

The four delegates, sent to spy out the land by the September weekend inauguration conference of Mitzpeh Halutz, are firmly committed to the scheme after two visits to the site last week. The Reform Movement community village is to be built on the Halutz hill, halfway between Acre and Safad in central Galilee.

The delegation was brought to Israel by Haim Sharett, the United Kibbutz Movement *shaliah* to the Reform Movement in the U.S., who initiated the scheme.

They intend to start settling at the site early in 1985. So far 24 families have joined the *garin* (settlement group), among them six families that include at least one former Israeli.

The *garin* members range in age

from 24 to 60.

One of the families is already in Israel, 14 are to come next year and the rest are to follow in 1985. Eventually they hope to expand into a village of 250 families.

There is no land for farming at the site and most of the residents will work in neighbouring towns like Carmiel and Safad, or at the new Tefen high technology industrial complex.

During their week-long visit, the delegation met settlement officials, talked to other Mitzpeh settlers and explored job opportunities.

The Reform Movement has two kibbutzim, Yahel and Lotan, in the Arava.

Information can be obtained from:

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Itzhak Aharoni, Israel Action Group of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain, 80 East End Rd., Finchley, London N3 2SY. Tel: (01) 349473.

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