

clean and adequate. The staff was helpful and the individuals there in the process of absorption were happy and had the look of idealism about them. We had a chance to observe the children in the 'kindergarten' and were surprised as to how happy and content they seemed in their new environment.

Ma'alot and Elaine Kopp appeared to be a town and lady on their way to bigger and better things. Elaine gave us an evening of meeting her immediate family, a beautiful daughter and handsome son on leave from the army. She is in love with Ma'alot and her work there and it showed through her enthusiasm. It was a shame that because of our schedules we were not able to see the actual absorption center there.

Because of the site of the mitzpeh, Har Chalutz, and the proximity to Carmiel, it was decided by the delegation to recommend that Carmiel be the site for the absorption process. We had the opportunity to visit the actual absorption center as well as the infrastructure of the city, i.e., the mayor, the high school principal, the grade school principal, etc. We were given a tour of the city by a member of the mayoral staff. The city is modern, clean and growing. Our most pleasant time there was at the grade school; the principal, Chana Yanai, allowed us to meet with staff and students. We were impressed. We had a chance to talk to one of the students who could speak English. At first, she was shy, but she was not shy about school and the fact that, although she missed America in the beginning, now her new home and the place where her friends were was Israel and Carmiel. It should be noted that when the student first spoke she had a very strong Hebrew accent; only during her discussion did she revert back to her American accent. She, more than anyone or anything, indicated to us that this was a positive environment. The same must be said of the high school. The students were the best salespersons. The children of the Cohen family at Carmiel who attend this high school could not praise it enough. We had a very detailed orientation from the principal, Yitzchak Shapira, who also provided us with the schedules and programs at the school. At the kinus we will have these in English translation as they are too detailed and lengthy to be included at this time.

The mayor, Baruch Vanger, gave the impression of an individual who cares about his town and its people. He was pleasant, courteous, and helpful. Carmiel was a town to behold. It was decided by the delegation that this ought to be the place for the absorption center for Garin Galil. However, the current or present facilities do not adapt themselves to our needs. Unlike Tiberias, the center is not geared towards families with needs like ours. Because of this we have requested that we, the garin, be provided with separate facilities such as an apartment complex. This is so that we could function as a unit. Carmiel is our first choice. Looking up from the city, one sees Har Chalutz which I said earlier is the prettiest place in the world. We are all looking forward to seeing you at the next kinus to show our slides, share our experiences and plan our future.