The meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Sunday, November 24, 1968 at the office of the Corporation at University House, 11 East 69th Street, New York, New York.

The Chairman called on Ambassador Harman, President of the Hebrew University who was visiting the United States, to report on the current status of the University. The Ambassador advised the Directors that the student population at the University for the current school year was now more than 12,500. Included in this group are 2,000 foreign students of which approximately one half are from the United States. He complimented the American Friends for its creative and dynamic efforts in the student program, and advised the Directors present that the American Friends had the largest and most significant program in the United States for the education of young people in Jewish culture and in the study and understanding of Jewish values. The young men and women returning from their studies at the Hebrew University are equipped with a basic understanding of Jewish history and Jewish learning obtainable only at the Hebrew University.

The Ambassador reported on the reconstruction of the Mount Scopus campus and stated that the Law Faculty will be formally located there by October, 1969, and that classes in the Natural Sciences would start in the trimester beginning 1970. The members of the Board were further advised that because of the critical housing shortage, 1,000 additional prefabricated housing units will be constructed by December, 1969 at a cost of IL 3,000,000. This will partially alleviate the very critical housing shortage for students. This sum will have to be provided for in this and next year's budget. He also reported that the plans for the School of Pharmacy building had been completed and that he hoped construction could begin at Ein Karem early in 1969. Ambassador Harman further stated that construction of the additional floor for the Dental School would commence shortly.

The Chairman of the Board reported on the status of the current Hebrew University budget and forecast that it will be substantially higher for the coming fiscal year commencing April 1, 1969. He pointed up the increasing number of students enrolled for post-graduate studies and research, working toward Masters and Doctorate degrees. He stated that the Hebrew University was still far below the average of comparable institutions of higher learning with respect to the percentage of the student body engaged in graduate studies. A prime objective is to substantially increase the graduate student body. To understand why the budget forecast for the next fiscal year will be substantially higher one must take into consideration that it costs eight times as much for maintaining a graduate student as against an undergraduate student.
The Chairman stressed the importance of the United Jewish Appeal's Emergency Campaign and he emphasized the primacy of this campaign in all of the fund-raising efforts for Israel. He strongly urged and hoped that every member of the Board of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, and that every person on our donor rolls will do their utmost in working with the United Jewish Appeal Emergency Committee in supporting their campaign. Speaking for the entire membership of the American Friends of the Hebrew University he pledged wholehearted all-out support.

Mr. Joseph M. Mazer, Chairman of the Mount Scopus Rehabilitation Program, gave a full and comprehensive report on the status of the program. He reported that there were now sponsors for 13 dormitories each to house 120 students, and that construction would shortly be under way. The Harry S Truman Center, which construction is being funded by the Founders of the Center, is nearing completion. He further reported that the First Year Science Student Compound was being underwritten. This involves the rehabilitation of the three existing buildings and the construction of a new building. Mr. Mazer further stated that there were sponsors for the building of a Preparatory School for the Disadvantaged, for the rehabilitation of the Rosenbloom building which will be part of the Mount Scopus Center for Legal Studies and the construction of a new building for the Center for Legal Studies. He also advised that the former Ratnoff Building is being renovated as a dormitory to house single students.

Mr. Julian Venezky, who just returned from Israel, reported contracts are currently being executed with builders for the immediate construction of 12 dormitories, in accordance with provisions adopted by the Corporation for this purpose. It is expected that eight dormitories will be completed by October, 1969 and the balance in 1970. He stated that it is necessary that the Corporation advance $1,000,000 by December 20, 1968 to guarantee cost for the above construction.

Mr. Venezky further advised the Directors that the construction of the Truman Center was in accordance with the time schedule and may even be completed ahead of schedule. He further stated that the transmissions by the American Friends for the current operating budget were within the goal established at the beginning of the year and that it is anticipated that the American Friends will meet the responsibilities given to it by the University for the current year's operating budget.

Dr. Henry Sonneborn, Chairman of the Committee on Academic Affairs, who had just returned from Israel, reported on the foreign student program at the University. He stated that in the forthcoming year he expected an increase over the 1000 American students currently enrolled at the University and also indicated an expectation of approximately 250 American students for the forthcoming summer program.

Professor Hyman Kublin, Co-Chairman of the Committee for Academic Affairs, reported that the American Friends overseas study student program
is the largest of its kind in the United States and the program's expansion will require a reorganization of the Corporation's Office of Academic Affairs to meet the increased volume of applications.

Mr. Seymour Fishman, Executive Vice President, reported on the 1968 Scopus Dinner scheduled for the following day. The dinner will be held in honor of Max M. Low with Honorable Arthur Goldberg as the General Chairman and Joseph Willen as the Dinner Chairman. It is anticipated that there will be an attendance of over 800 people and that there will be announcements of major gifts, particularly for the Mount Scopus program. He also advised that a large number of scholarships have been established in honor of Mr. Low.

The Chairman of the Board summed up the current priorities for the American Friends:

1) Scholarships
2) Dormitories and Mount Scopus Rehabilitation Program
3) Life Science Complex
4) School of Education

The Chairman thanked the Board members, particularly those from out of New York, for attending and expressed the hope that he would be seeing them all the next evening at the Scopus Dinner.

With best wishes for a Happy Chanukah.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Rothberg
Chairman