

From 25 March to 10 April 1967 I made a hectic, all-embracing tour of Israeli science, my first since I joined the *Daily Telegraph*. Much of this was very impressive, some was ordinary and although I filed a fair amount of material to the *Daily Telegraph* from Israel, very little was published. Why? There certainly was no anti-semitism from the Owner, Lord Hartwell, but perhaps some from the lower grades of the editorial staff, I do not know. Perhaps the stories I reported were not considered of prime interest for the average British reader of the newspaper, or simply because Israeli science was 'small' science.

I had a previous tour of Israeli science in 1959, eleven years after that country's Independence. From money left over from their 10th Anniversary celebrations, a number of British science writers were invited, and at that time I wrote a long editorial about my tour for *Discovery* which I then edited. [See Title 64]

My second visit was as stimulating as my first, and from the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, we rushed east to the Dead Sea and then to Eilat by the Red Sea, north again to Jerusalem University and finally to the Technion in Haifa. I took ample notes about the scientists I met and about their research work, but my thoughts about financing Israeli science at the Weizmann Institute might prove more interesting. I recorded them there and then.

An annual budget of US \$ 10 million was then required for the Institute and that was raised predominantly by volunteer contributions from abroad, mostly by American Jewish Organisations. The 'promoter extraordinary' or '*Schnorrer*' as it is called in Yiddish, was Meyer Weisgal, originally a New York impresario who was enlisted by Chaim Weizmann himself for this all-important job. The flow of funds was naturally spasmodic and thus prevented the drawing up of any long-term scientific research plans.

Short-term loans from the U.S. Government did not prove a stable alternative, although useful stop-gaps. Scientific research cannot live on charity, I concluded. Research contracts from British Government Departments were suggested, but I was most skeptical that these would be awarded. Income might possibly be raised from Jewish Organisations in European countries, but this would require a proper 'sales staff'.

Finally, and this was the achievement of another 'promoter extraordinary' Dr Joseph Cohen, who called on German Chancellor Adenauer, and persuaded him to support the Institute. By 1956 a German scientific delegation from the Max-Planck-Society, composed of Otto Hahn and Wolfgang Gentner, among others, visited Israel and thus initiated stable German financial support.