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THIRTY-TWO PAGES INCLUDES "SIGHT SAVER"

Egypt pressure cools Rabin

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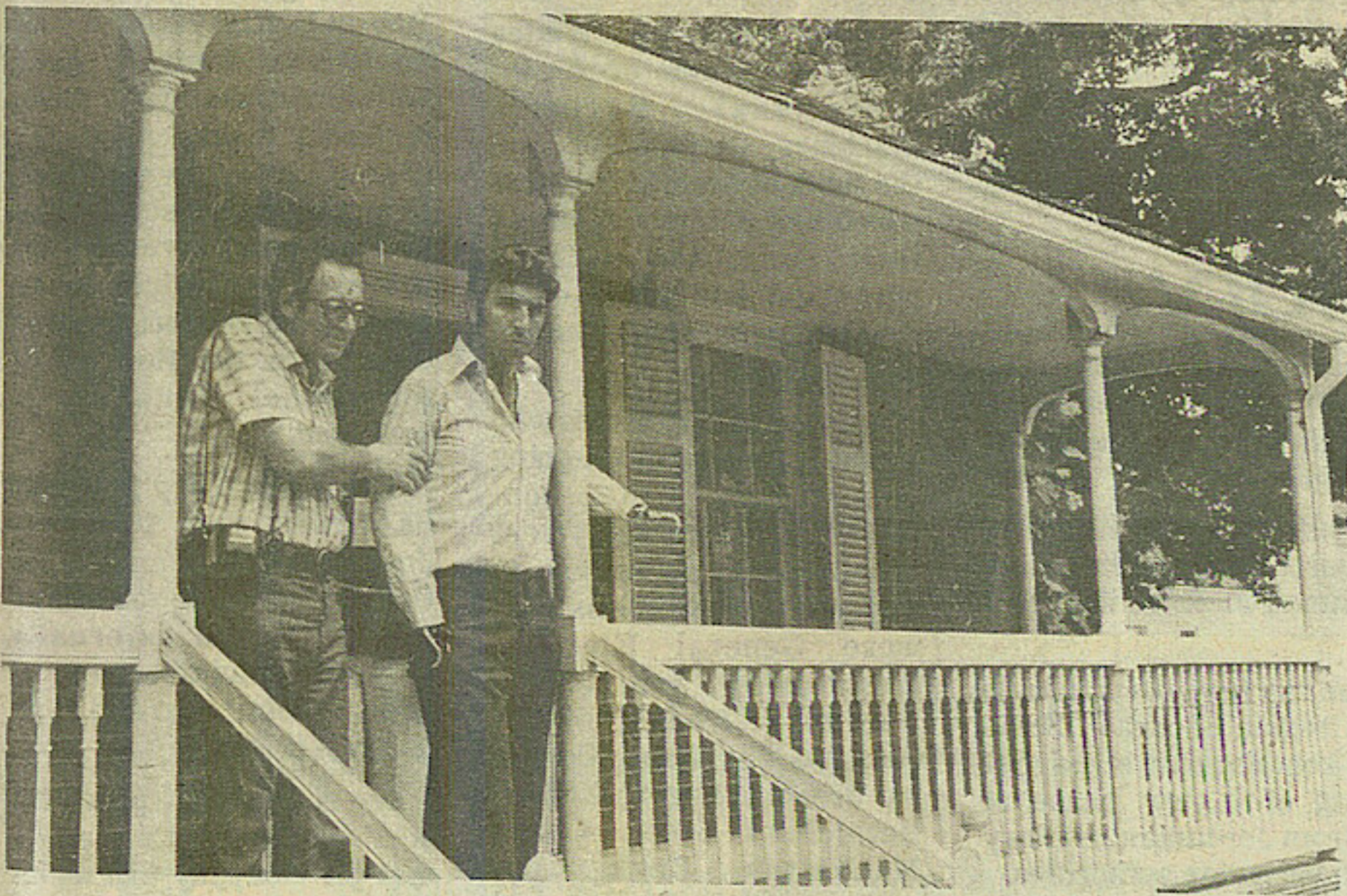
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A Pittsburgh first: Host to war wounded

(See Photo essay, Page 4, story Page 5 and Editorial "War Veterans", Page 13.)



"WE DID not know each other before we came to Pittsburgh. Now we are all great friends...." Seated from left are Israeli vets: Yekutiel Gershoni, Ran Gafni, Iram Shacham, Eli Sofer, Arie Tamari, Atzmon Rubinstein, Ilan Halperin, Shmuel Gov-Ary and Yaacov Steuer. Standing are Sylvia Robinson, UJF Women's Division Campaign leader immediately following the Yom Kippur War, who initiated the Israeli veterans visit to Pittsburgh; Amihai Hermon, and Elayne Rosen, UJF staff.



OUT of the past of Old Economy, Pa. into the future of Israel Redeemed step disabled Israeli veterans Ilan Halperin, the leader of the group and Yekutiel Gershoni.

There were 10 of them, all Israeli veterans, wounded in every war since 1948. And they were visiting in Pittsburgh for two weeks. They did not stay in an impersonal hotel to be entertained from time to time by well meaning strangers, but lived in individual homes as part of the family—to be treated as family members.

How did it happen — that these disabled Israeli veterans, most whom have never left Israel ("Except the time I went to Africa — the Sinai campaign to us was Africa.") — should come as a group the first time to the United States?

Last year, Sylvia Robinson accompanied her husband Donald, past UJF president, to Geneva, where he attended an international Joint Distribution Committee Budget meeting. At that time she heard of this new disabled veterans program known only to a few communities in Europe and began making inquiries to learn how Pittsburgh could have

the privilege of "taking these beautiful men into our homes."

By March of this year the decision was made to put into action a "person-to-person" Israeli veterans visit with the assistance of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

As word-of-mouth news of the project gained momentum, persons interested in acting as host families volunteered. "Choosing only 10 families was difficult," said Mrs. Robinson. "So many wanted the opportunity. But people interested in being a host to an Israeli veteran next year may call the UJF at 681-8000, ext. 10."

The veterans' visit was a rare, touching, moving experience for the Pittsburgh families, for they had a chance to see first hand what thousands of words could not tell them — the real cost of Israel's wars on her sons.

Though each man could care for himself in a household situation, no veteran had less than a 50 per cent disability: three had

(Please See Page 5, Col. 1.)

JERUSALEM, (JTA)—More and more elements of an interim Middle East agreement are surfacing, according to sources here, although Premier Yitzhak Rabin, emphasizes that a settlement may be as far away as six months.

Israeli papers reported this week that Secretary of State Henry Kissinger assured Rabin of \$1.8 billion in military aid if Israel can reach an interim agreement with Egypt.

Also, reports from the Kissinger-Rabin meeting in Bonn state that Egypt has okayed an Israeli presence on the eastern side of the key Mitla and Gidi Passes, with Israeli units manning the sophisticated early warning system.

Rabin said that while Israel was willing to return most of Sinai to Egypt, Israeli troops would remain at Sharm el Sheikh and the base there would remain connected to Israel via a land corridor.

Meanwhile, in an obvious move to put pressure on Rabin, Egypt has announced that she will refuse to renew the mandate of the Sinai peace keeping force beyond its current July 24 deadline unless the UN moves to assure a speedy Israeli withdrawal.

While surprised at the Egyptian move, Israeli officials stressed that the Egyptian ultimatum would not change the pace of the negotiations.

An Arab-fueled drive to expel Israel from the UN and all other international bodies resulted Tuesday in a unanimous vote on an expulsion resolution by foreign ministers of 40 Islamic nations meeting in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia.

Rabin, who returned to Israel Monday, was now more optimistic than before that progress toward an interim settlement could be achieved.

But he stressed that the negotiations could continue for a long time. "It may take two days, it may take half a year," the Premier said.

He stressed in fact that there was no pressure of time being exerted on Israel. He said the U.S. agreed that the negotiations could not be conducted against a deadline and the talks can now proceed at a more leisurely pace.

American sources indicated that if clear progress is made within the next week or so, Kissinger may return to the Middle East before the end of this month or early in August.

Reports from Washington today said that the U.S., seeking to facilitate an interim agreement, was considering the possibility of American personnel to man

(Please See Page 28, Col. 2.)

Pitt clamps a firm 'no' on Arab boycott 'feelers'

By ALBERT W. BLOOM, Executive Editor of The Chronicle

The Chronicle learned exclusively today that the University of Pittsburgh has made it clear to an Arab country, presumably Saudi Arabia, that Pitt would not, in any manner, succumb to Arab boycott demands against academic personnel who might be chosen for contracted projects in such countries.

Joseph S. Colangelo, Director of News and Publications, confirmed in reply to a Chronicle query reports of "tentative feelers" from an Arab government relating to proposed university projects to upgrade Arab schools overseas and develop new academic programs.

Apparently the Arab boycott-discrimination question was broached directly or hinted.

Pitt "made it clear from the outset", said Mr. Colangelo, that it would "not violate university purposes and methods of

operation" if any contract was to be negotiated with the University's Center for International Studies here.

He emphasized that Pitt in accordance with America's tradition, would not allow any outside or foreign source to dictate to Pitt any kind of compliance with Saudi Arabian discrimination against Jews, or any other minority group, on grounds of race, color, or creed.

"There was nothing dramatic, as though we had turned down a multi-million dollar contract," Mr. Colangelo said. "We just made our policy clear from the outset.

"We have nothing going on any such project now." University officials simply affirmed, he said, that Pitt would "follow the University's normal procedure of non-discrimination in its generic state."

The Pitt affirmation came to light when a consortium of five other top-level univer-

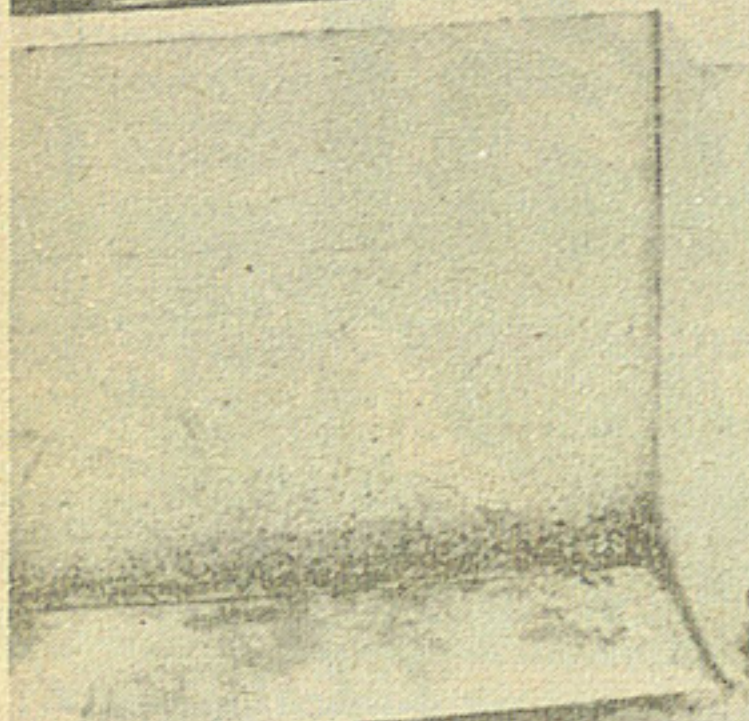
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The Inside Story

- FAST of Tisha b'Av concluded tonight, Page 2.
- PHOTO essay: War veterans visit to Pittsburgh, Page 4.
- FOURTH of July and Jerusalem, "People and Issues", by Chronicle Executive Editor Albert W. Bloom, Page 12.
- EDITORIAL "Ability shines through disability", Page 13.
- SIGHT-SAVER edition, centerfold, between Pages 14-15.
- 'WAR Against Jews', book review by Sarah Landesman, Page 17.



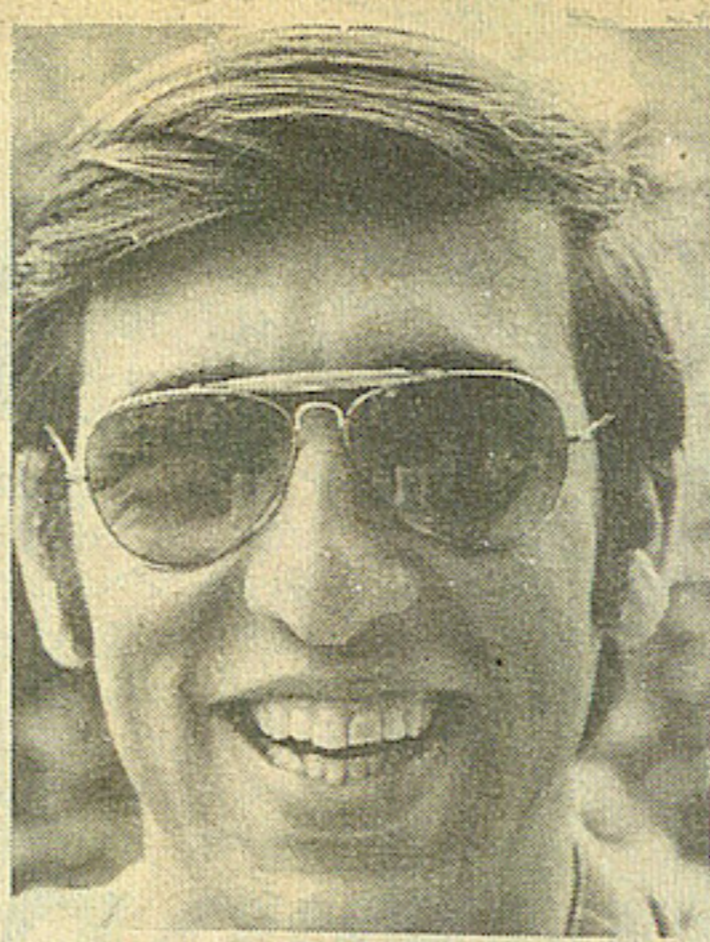
(ELI) "I have a job, a pension. The government helps us very much...they do it from the heart...."



"IN the U.S. a 100-year old site is considered old, even to men who have stood at the Wall in Jerusalem." Ran Gafni.



ILAN HALPERIN



AMIHAI HERMON



RAN GAFNI



YAACOV STEUER

Ability over disability

(See stories Page 1, 5 and Editorial, "War Veterans", Page 13.)



"I TRIED to find Pittsburgh on a map...I thought it was a small village...." Atzmon Rubinstein, Ilan Halperin, Arie Tamari.



SHOPPING for family gifts held Yaacov Steuer's attention.



IRAM SHACHAM



ARIE TAMARI

Who's Who

The following is a list of the visiting disabled Israeli army veterans, including some personal information and the names of their hosts:

Shmuel Gov-Ary, 29 years old, 63 per cent disability—one leg amputee, Yom Kippur War, 1974, married, no children, student of economics, host: Albert and Irene Smolover;

Ilan Halperin, 31, 100 per cent disability—hand amputee, one eye damaged, Six Day War, 1967, country of origin Israel, married, two children, economist, host: Donald and Sylvia Robinson;

Arie Tamari, 32, 85 per cent disability—left leg amputee, Suez, Yom Kippur War, 1973, country of origin-Israel, married, two children, farmer, host: Don and Chantze Butler;

Atzmon Rubinstein, 28, 64 per cent disability—chest wound, Yom Kippur War, 1974, country of origin-Israel, married, one child, technician, hosts: Dr. Sidney and Sylvia Busis;

Eli Sofer, 35, 60 per cent disability-wounded both legs, Yom Kippur War, 1973, country of origin-Iraq, married, two children, teacher, host: Jack and Bernice Meyers;

Yaacov Steuer, 50, 75 per cent disability—right hand amputee, War of Independence, 1948, country of origin-Poland, married, two children, works in customs port in Haifa, host: Julius and Harriet Kruman;

Ran Gafni, 31, 56 per cent disability—wounded both legs, Golan, Yom Kippur War, 1973, country of origin-Israel, married, one child, farmer, host: Milton and Sarita Eisner;

Amihai ("Ami") Hermon, 30, 48 per cent disability—wounded one leg, Yom Kippur War, 1973, country of origin-Israel, married, two children, clerk, host: Norton and Florence Rapoport;

Yekutiel ("Kuti") Gershoni, 32, 100 per cent disability—both hands amputated, impaired eyesight, defusing demolition bombs in 1969; country of origin-Israel, married, two children, student, advanced degree in Middle Eastern History, host Edward and Rita Perlow;

Iram Shacham, 43, 50 per cent disability—wounded left leg, in 1964, country of origin-Israel, married, one child, host: Bernie and Velma Friedman



ATZMON RUBINSTEIN



SHMUEL GOV-ARY



ELI SOFER



YEKUTIEL GERSHONI

Host to war wounded

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 2)

100 per cent. But the spirit of the men did not invite pity; their openness and lack of self-consciousness invited complete acceptance and deep affection.

The 14 days were packed with parties and tours and boat rides and shopping and trips out of town — enough to tire trained athletes. But the men knew it would probably be the only chance they would have to see the United States and they took advantage of every opportunity to climb the highest peaks and walk as far as every path would lead.

Highlights of the visit were the trips to Niagara Falls, Washington, D. C., and the Jewish Community Center — Emma Kaufmann Camp in West Virginia. The veterans were no different than other sightseers as they vied to have their pictures taken with Ambassador Dinitz and VIPs at the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

Perhaps their most moving experience was being with the young Emma Kaufmann campers. The joy of hearing American Jewish children singing Israeli songs and dancing sparked comments like: "I have a day like this, I don't need to see New York, anything."

But there were small joys as well. "One night I sit next to the window and hear the birds. It is like a dream. The trees, the bir-

ds, the quiet. And here you have rain. In Israel I do not see the rain in summer."

The men laughed a lot and sang a lot and kidded each other about their own disabilities. But they were very solicitous of each other at every move. A quick glance, a slightly slowing step, a gentle helping touch — an almost unseen move to make sure all was well. Yet at the same time they enjoyed teasing their hostesses "for worrying over us like a Jewish mother. We Israelis are independent, you know."

The men all worried about their English, which was excellent. "I want to be sure you know what I mean, what I feel." Yet their feelings were all clear as they told what the trip had meant to them.

"The treatment and hospitality are beyond expectations...unbelievable. We didn't know what to expect...We feel exactly like at home...like in your own family. We got to learn each other. It is the beginning of a special kind of relationship. When our 'families' come to Israel now it will be like coming to see your own family.

"The relationship between us and the families is special...We heard about American Jewish backing — we knew we had somebody to lean on, but it was like on the moon, mysterious. But now we get to know what is is — the Jewish nation as a whole — we want to thank you. You are very wonderful people...."

(See story Page 1, Photo essay Page 4 and Editorial, "War Veterans", Page 13.)

Op-Ed

Editorial Ability shines through disability Editorial

War Veterans: 'Operation B'ruchim Haba'im'

There has been an air of subdued excitement, full of embracing warmth, rippling through our community these past two weeks.

We have, with good reason, been dutifully silent on this matter. Now it can be told; and with community pride.

It all has to do with the 10 Israeli war veterans, with disabling wounds from three Middle East wars defending the new-old Land of Israel.

They were brought here as special guests in a project conceived and formed with loving hands by Sylvia Robinson (Mrs. Donald).

We dubbed it: "Operation B'ruchim Haba'im"—"Blessed be those who come."

The resounding success of this effort—a Pittsburgh "first" for the United States—is due to the happy hard work of careful, prior planning by Sylvia and her eager associates—and especially to those families, and their friends and neighbors who welcomed each veteran as "one of the family."

And so they were—Instant family, instant friends. And so they are, now and ever more. No one can now foresee how these new "family" friendships will influence their lives—and ours!—across the decades to come.

It will add new form and line to the beauty of extended Jewish family life, easily reaching over time and distance from Pittsburgh America to Israel's towns and villages.

The other night we dropped in to

say "L'hitraot" to one of the veterans before they left for their "other home" in Israel, and there he was with the kids of the family watching tv stripped to the waist and joining the family chatter.

They all sure needed a little rest from the happy, hectic pace of trips, camps, riverboating, nature walks, swimming, brunches, seeing a few of America's natural wonders, and having fun shopping for the inevitable presents for the family back home.

Like Americans in Israel, they were incorrigible "camera buffs" in Pittsburgh, Emma Kaufmann Camp, W.Va., Niagara Falls, Economy, Pa., Washington, D.C., New York and a wild variety of other points boxing the compass and the clock!

Most of these young men—who have wives and children back home—have never been out of Israel, except to route an invader into Africa (Egypt across the Suez Canal). Their visit to the United States was like an unexpected dream turned into reality.

Their unaffected dignity, easy good manners, and unspoiled courage in coming to grips with the realities of their lives made better men and women out of the rest of us.

The figures of "disability ratings" from 50 to 100 percent are cold technical designations telling nothing about the men underneath. But when you meet and talk with them, you know you are in the presence of "giborim", the "mighty ones" of Israel.

Yet they are eager, quiet, happy, sober, unaffected. In short, normal.

They would shy from such kudos. It is not their way. Nor is it their battlefield exploits that merit the honor. Rather, it is their conquest of something much harder—life itself and the adaptation to its stress.

We salute them. For they have done more for us in Pittsburgh—and the nation at large—than we for them.

Sylvia Robinson is already looking forward to the next phase of the program which she hopes will catch on across the country.

"Choosing 10 families was difficult," she said, "So many wanted the opportunity. But people interested in hosting an Israeli veteran next year may call Federation at 681-8000, extension 10."

Perhaps best of all in their visit was to see the reaction of children—in the host families and at Emma Kaufmann Camp, a highlight of the visit.

As one perceptive person put it, "they related to the children as people, as Israelis, as disabled veterans—and as defenders of our identity."

Incidentally, funds for the entire project were privately raised.

The veterans enjoyed being with "family" and friends of family. One remarked: "Not only are we part of our American family here. But when they visit us, they will be part of our families in Israel."

Withal, they were a bright and happy bunch, ready for fun but with an inner discipline.

No one who met them was left

untouched. Said one American: "The evidence of the sacrifice they made for us is right in front of our eyes."

Yet, once that was seen and, more importantly, mentally and emotionally perceived, it passed from the scene. Only the human being beneath was seen and perceived. And that was very satisfying.

They were, and are, builders of human and cultural bridges in the deepest sense.

Ilan Halperin, the group leader was talking about Sylvia and the germination of her idea into reality, bringing the war veterans to Pittsburgh.

Someone remarked, "She is a wonderful woman."

Ilan paused for a second, and said quietly:

"The word 'wonderful' is not big enough!"

At the request of their government, the visit of the Israeli disabled war veterans was not reported publicly by The Chronicle to insure their privacy, dignity, and to prevent them from being exploited in any way.

In the Greater Pittsburgh Community, our measure of devotion to these men and their chaverim, is small compared to their full measure of devotion to the Jewish people in its historic quest for the blessings of peace.

To them and to their fellow Israelis: "Baruchim Haba'im". "Blessed be those who come."