

and advanced educational opportunities in virtually all fields of higher education, from humanities to the social sciences, chemistry, physics, life sciences, law, medicine, agriculture, engineering, social work, education and numerous other fields of study too numerous to mention. It offers degrees at all levels including B.A., B.S., Master's and Ph.D.

Although it attracts students of the front rank from all over Israel and abroad due to its reputation as a leading teaching institution, the university is also renowned internationally for the research carried out there in all of the sciences.

These research projects, numbering in the thousands, involve in many cases cooperative efforts with leading scientists and scholars, among them a substantial number of Americans. To get an idea of the quality of the research being pursued, one need only examine the leading scientific journals, such as *Science* or *Nature*, to see how often the names of Hebrew University researchers appear on their pages.

It is significant that scholars and researchers based at Hebrew University have competed for and received many grants from numerous American agencies and departments including NIH, NIST, DARPA, and USAID. Those in charge of reviewing such grant proposals have come to respect the substantive quality of the work done at Hebrew University. It is worth noting that many of these proposals are made in cooperation with American institutions, which has served to enhance the close relations between our people and especially our scientists. The results of these projects have benefitted Americans, Israelis and all mankind.

But it is more than the quality of its teaching and research that I wish to emphasize today in speaking about the special nature of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Indeed, there are many outstanding universities in our own country and elsewhere that are making significant contributions to our knowledge and to the progress of our world.

What I really want to stress is the singularity of this university in its vigorous efforts towards meeting the desperate need for the furtherance of those human values which we so treasure in our own country and which we consider to be the foundation stones of decent societies everywhere.

Specifically, I am speaking of elements that to us seem basic and which we probably take for granted: the free and unfettered pursuit of information, freedom of expression, tolerance for people of different religious, races and ethnic origins and for those whose world views may be different from our own. In brief, I am speaking of an openness that—all too sadly—does not exist in many societies and in many parts of the world.

It is precisely this pluralistic and tolerant spirit which has characterized

the Hebrew University since its earliest days and which has through the years attracted students and scholars from the four corners of the world.

The student body today is a diverse and pluralistic one, made up of Israelis—Jews and Arabs—as well as foreign students of all religions, races and ethnic origins.

These students study and live together within the university community, contributing in no small measure—perhaps unconsciously—to the development of a world based on informed coexistence and peace, rather than one grounded in ignorance and hatred, doomed to eternal conflict and purposeless death and suffering.

Long before anyone dreamed of dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians, the Hebrew University, through one of its institutes named for one of our great Presidents of the last century—the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace—initiated and developed substantial cooperative academic and research projects involving scholars from Israel and from its Arab neighbors Egypt, Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza.

Nowhere were there so many Arab and Israeli researchers involved in cooperative ventures aimed at achieving a better and mutually beneficial future than at the Hebrew University. These projects involved numerous academic disciplines: the social and exact sciences, agriculture, medicine, dental medicine and others.

Scores of practically oriented plans and reports were drawn up by these teams as to how to proceed regarding the resolution of such difficult issues as the sharing of water resources, the delineation of borders, and the protection of the environment. In addition, the university has conducted numerous in-service training courses for Arab professionals.

It is precisely the yearning and searching for the solving of age-old conflicts, for peaceful resolution that the savage advocates of hate and murder sought to strike down in their despicable bombing attack at the Hebrew University. But the human spirit is not so easily discouraged or defeated.

In condemning the bombing attack on the Hebrew University, the president of the American Council on Education, David Ward, took note of this significant aspect of the university. He wrote that: "The Hebrew University of Jerusalem has played a critical role in promoting co-existence between Israelis and Palestinians—as well as among people of all nationalities, religions and cultures. The terrible act at the Mount Scopus campus was intended to prevent the type of human interaction and discourse that can facilitate peaceful change in a more complex and challenging world."

It is this kind of hopeful spirit that was so brutally and viciously assaulted

in the murderous bombing attack that took place at the Hebrew University's Frank Sinatra Student Center cafeteria on July 31, 2002.

This was more than another senseless terror attack, aimed at killing and maiming innocent people. It was an attack—knowingly or unknowingly—against everything that not just the Hebrew University but all of the free world holds dear.

Just as the American people are firm in their resolve not to allow the perpetrators of September 11th to destroy our society or our commitment to decency and peace, so too the people of Israel, including the Hebrew University community, are determined not to lose heart because of those who would seek to destroy that spirit of humanity which has been so devotedly cultivated there over the years.

Hebrew University's President Magidor stated that this was "an attack on understanding, tolerance and the quest for peace. [It] is a crime not only against Israel or the Jewish people, it is a crime against the free and enlightened world."

In the wake of this tragedy, President Magidor then asked himself "whether it still makes sense to strive for a peaceful society based on reason and understanding." Given the circumstances, his conclusion is both remarkable and also a perfect summation for the ethos of this institution. He concluded his letter to *The New York Times* by stating that "the answer came to me clearly, and it is summarized by the Hebrew word 'davka'—'despite everything'. We must not let them kill our drive of peace."

A bridge of co-existence in the strife-torn Middle East, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has been damaged. But it has not been destroyed, neither physically nor spiritually. That bridge will be repaired. It will be stronger even than it was in the past. And it will continue to serve as a source of pride and inspiration to the people of Israel, the United States, and all people everywhere who treasure life and liberty as the supreme human values.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate message from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)