

I S R A E L

The staff at 177 were asked to consider the feasibility of Israel in place of Ireland for the 1991 conference. The President felt that perhaps we Georgists should be more active in areas where land was a problem. With this brief we have looked at the Maierdsdorf Faculty Club of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on Mount Scopus, to the west of Jerusalem with panoramic views of the old City.

In view of the tremendous heat in Jerusalem during the summer months, the conference should take place in the spring when the temperature is pleasantly warm, and since the festivals of Easter and Passover do not coincide in 1991, we could hold a ten-day conference from Monday 18th to Wednesday 27th March. We would envisage conference business on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; free days on Good Friday, Saturday and Easter Sunday so that members can take part in the religious ceremonies in the Old City, or take excursions to other parts of Israel (it is a very small country), and final business on Monday and Tuesday, with a Banquet on the Monday evening.

It would be possible to make a complete 'package' of the conference as El Al would be prepared to fly American and British participants in and out on the same plane, leaving New York on the Sunday evening, stopping over in London on Monday morning, and arriving at Ben Gurion Airport on Monday afternoon. Returning, we would leave Ben Gurion on the Wednesday morning, arrive in London at lunchtime and reach New York in the early evening. All times are local times. El Al would offer us a small agents' discount on their group fares - which at present are £224 from London and US\$949 from New York.

The Faculty Club could offer us 22 two and three bedded rooms, each with private facilities, telephone, radio and refrigerator. Rooms are fully carpeted and air conditioned with ample cupboard and hanging space and desks and chairs. There are no cooking facilities but two rooms are equipped for disabled members. Towels are changed daily, sheets every other day, and there are shaver sockets (220/110). Each room has a backboard and all doors can be locked.

It is possible that other bedrooms will be made available three months before the start of the conference, when it is known how many bonafide faculty members will be using the Club at that time. Bedrooms are at the top of the building, on the 6th and 7th floors, looking out either on the Old City or the University garden.

The lecture rooms are on the 5th floor. There is one large room with a capacity of around 100 which would be allocated to us free of charge for our stay. Three smaller rooms seating between 25 and 40 people are available at a cost of \$50 a day. On the same floor is a library cum reading room which is very comfortable and where TV is shown in the evening. All the facilities we might require - projectors, video, notice-boards, etc. - are either available free or can be hired very cheaply from the University.

On the 4th floor there are a number of private dining rooms - the largest seats 100 and can be hired for \$80. This could be used for the banquet. The smaller dining rooms could be used as conference office, President's reception room, whatever, for about \$40 a day.

The main restaurant and coffee shop are on the 2nd floor (the 3rd is given over to Reception) and it is envisaged that we would eat there most of the time. Breakfast, which is included in the cost of the room, is quite a large meal of fruit juice, yoghurt, eggs, cheese, fish and rolls, so it is likely that

participants might not want a large lunch. It is thought that our 'package' should include only breakfast and dinner, leaving it to individuals to decide how much they would want to eat at lunchtime - menus attached. Dinner would be provided specially for our group (it is not normally served), so we would possibly have the restaurant to ourselves then.

Morning and afternoon coffee breaks would be taken in the lobby on the 4th floor.

The coffee shop is open for light snacks from 9 a.m to 9 p.m. A certain amount of alcohol is served there but on the whole Israelis are not drinkers! There is a lift/elevator as well as stairs.

At present, cost per person for bedroom and breakfast is \$21 a day (\$25 if we take less than 20 rooms) - coffee breaks and dinner would add \$14 - making a total price of \$35 a day.

Single rooms could be arranged at the Hyatt Regency (very expensive!) next door or in cheaper hotels in the City. Buses to the Faculty Club run every ten minutes or a minibus could be arranged if there were sufficient numbers. If members wish to hire cars there is underground parking for 300 cars beneath the Club.

There would be no objection to a bookshop, souvenir shop, etc., on the 5th floor - this has been provided for other conferences.

It would seem reasonable to provide a package New York/Israel/New York or London/Israel/London comprising plane fare, transfers to and from Ben-Gurion, bed and breakfast (shared room) for nine nights, Monday to the second Wednesday, coffee breaks and dinner on conference business days (leaving participants complete freedom of choice over the Easter holiday) for around £450 London and \$1300 New York.

[El Al also flies to South Africa but not to Australia. Special arrangements would need to be made for Australians to have a 'conference only' package.]

The atmosphere of the Faculty Club is an extremely pleasant and purposeful one. The Administrator was cooperative and agreeable during a visit of some three hours and every request or suggestion was accepted. Being a small faculty club, there are none of the rigid rules attached to large educational institutions, and our stay there would promise to be a very pleasant one.

The accommodation we would require is at present available, to be firm-booked in mid-August, should we take the decision to hold our 1991 conference there.

24 July 1989