

21.8.54

Camal Kassem, a law student, Druze from the village of Rameh, came to see me. We talked at length about the Druze situation. They all live in the village. Even the 5 Druze university students (I studies agriculture, I medicine, I dentistry, I humanities, I Law) will go back to their villages. Their financial situation is good. There are no poor amongst them. When there are many sons - some of them forego the inheritance (in exchange for money) and acquire land and a new house. All the kids go to school, they all learn Hebrew. They have some conflicts - because there are 2 elected officials in the Knesset, one was elected with Aba Hushi's help, and one with Barkat's help, and they are both competing for re-election and getting the religious leaders on their side. The youth is usually "free" (liberal), but still there is as yet no mixed education.

Camal Kassem would like to include the Druze youth in a Jewish youth movement. I suggested that he organize a Druze youth initiative group to the Scouts' movement. And someone from the Scouts will come and help them. They will organize trips to Jewish villages and towns and vice versa.

Kassem also suggests work camps that consist of Druze children on Jewish farms. I asked if girls will come as well. He answered in the negative. Parents will not allow a girl aged 13 and over to leave the house.

Kassem told me there are several Druze from Syria and Lebanon who came here and worked in the IDF and don't have land. I told him I could not guarantee anything, but if he brings me a list of names and years of military service, I will check the possibility of building a village for them.

He brought me an Arab newspaper (monthly magazine) ALAHA (brotherhood) in which the lawyer Kusa attacks my letter to a student in Baka Garbiya. Denies existence of equal rights, since there is a military regime, State reclamation of lands, and that we are guilty for the lack of peace. He promised to produce a Hebrew translation of the article. He says this paper is prevalent among intellectual elite.

-In the evening the communal meeting decided to invite a Scouts' Gar'in as soon as possible.