

"Education Day" Declared in Honor of Rebbe's Birthday

Governor James G. Martin declared March 29 as "Education Day" in the state of North Carolina. The proclamation came in honor of the birthday of Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe Shlita, who turned 86 on the eleventh day of the Hebrew month of Nissan.

The Rebbe has been calling for improved education in this country, especially in light of the fact that the past years have seen a deterioration in true educational values. The Rebbe's call has been respected by the U.S. Congress which in the past has examined this important issue at length.

Crucial in the outline for improved education are the seven Noachdite laws which were the first set of laws given to man to be observed universally.

In addition to Governor Martin's Proclamation, there was a bill passed in the U.S. Congress declaring March 29, "Education Day U.S.A." with a special signing ceremony by President Reagan at the White House which Rabbi Yossi Groner attended with a special delegation of the



President Reagan signing bill designating March 29 as "Education Day USA."



Senator Jesse Helms speaking about his experience with Lubavitch. At right is Sec. of Education, William J. Bennett.



Rabbi Groner and Senator Helms.

Convinced All Jews Must Go to Israel Iranian Developer Sets Sights on Beit She'an

By Tamar Levy
(JTA)

The most talked about person these days in the Jewish community in Switzerland is the Irani carpet vendor Mordechai Babazadeh, who lives in Zurich with his wife and seven children. The man has announced his intention of developing the sleepy Israeli locality of Beit She'a, known as the place where Housing Minister David Levy lives.

Babazadeh intends to build 10 hotels there, 500 villas, a shopping center, a synagogue, a playground and parks. All this on 100 acres with an investment of \$100 million.

His Israeli architect already produced the plans and the authorities of Beit She'an have promised support.

Aside from this project, Babazadeh intends to set up a center for worldwide trade, a sort of Jewish Wall Street, in Givat Shmuel. Babazadeh has a big plot of land there. He says, "Why should Jewish businessmen go to Hong Kong or Tokyo to do business? Better they come to Israel."

The rug merchant's third plan is to develop a vacation resort near Tiberias, something along the lines of a Texas ranch with sheep and cowboys — only Jewish.

He is partners with his brother, Avraham Babazadeh, and in contact with investors in the United States as well as Canada.

When asked if his plans are

not a little too ambitious, he says: "When Theodor Herzl created the Jewish state he was also told, 'How could you dream of getting water out of the rocks?'"

Babazadeh, 47, maintains his office in Zurich. He is a religious man, who speaks English mingled with words in Hebrew and German.

His father, Mirza Babazadeh, was murdered two years ago by Arab terrorists while praying in Istanbul's Neve Shalom Synagogue. According to the son, he was an extremely wealthy man, from one of the most influential families in Iran. The family owned land and a private bank.

Before his death, he told his son that he should give up all his business affairs and concentrate on bringing Jews to Israel.

Mordechai Babazadeh studied in London and Germany, where his family settled. He says that with the advent of the Khomeini Revolution, he felt a tragedy was awaiting the Jews of Iran, and so he helped Jews get themselves and their money out of Iran to Israel.

Babazadeh says he is sorry the Irani Jews were not treated well in Israel and that 90 percent of them left. Now he hopes to bring some back to

settle in Beit She'an.

He predicts that terrible tragedies will happen to Jews who live abroad and all must come to Israel to be saved. He says every Jew must have a house in Israel and the government must help those who have no money by giving them land.

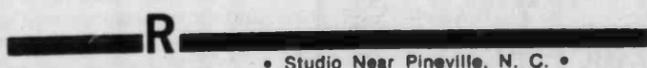
Babazadeh is trying to interest two big Swiss travel agencies in building hotels that would be self-financed for 20 years by groups of tourists sent by the agents. He is aiming at groups from Japan and West Germany.

He already has signed a contract with Mayor Shlomo Ben-Lulu of Beit She'an and is ready to start the development project as soon as possible. He is waiting for permits for the infrastructure, including water and electricity.

The synagogue he is building will carry his father's name. And he hopes to name the development itself Wonder City, Holy Land to remember the miracle that happened to him a year ago near Beit She'an.

Babazadeh was driving with friends when their car had an accident and by a miracle no one was hurt. He went to pray in the synagogue in Beit She'an and then decided to invest there in the hopes of creating an Eilat of the north.

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