

Editorial

Each of our recent issues has warned of the growing crisis in Israel's land policy. This has now yielded its bitter fruit in the form of the **Israel Lands Policy Reform Committee**.

The report, which was prepared by a committee known as the Ronen Commission for its chairman, Prof. Boaz Ronen, should be rejected. It faithfully reflects the instructions of the Minister who appointed it, the Minister of Infrastructures, who directed that primary importance be accorded to the aspect of land transfer from national to private ownership. Its recommendations do not rest on existing principles and laws of land policy nor take into account the prescriptions of accepted public research committees.

The report is invalid in that it completely contradicts the Israel Lands Law, 1960; the Covenant between the State of Israel and the World Zionist Organization promulgated in November 1961; and the Government decisions of May 23, 1965 on land policy in Israel.

The values underlying the establishment of the Israel Lands Administration (ILA) have been dissolved.

This critical situation demands a vigorous response from JNF, using all the means at its disposal, for at stake here is the very foundation of national ownership of land in Israel, which is at the core of JNF's existence.

Time and immediate action are of the essence.

In order to enlighten our readers about the report, the current issue opens with an article by **Uri Pinkerfeld**, a member of both the ILC and JNF's Board of Directors, on "**Israel Lands Policy Reform**" — **Indeed?** The author provides an instructive survey for comparative purposes of the various committees, their composition and mode of operation, that were created to arrive at decisions on Israel's land policy. He concludes with the recommendation that the Ronen Commission recall its report in order to rework it and fill in the missing gaps.