



Ma'ale Adumim, a developing community and industrial center halfway between Jerusalem and Jerico, is first mentioned in the Book of Joshua when the borders between the tribes of Judah and Benjamin are delineated. Ma'ale Adumim means "the red ascent", referring to the iron oxide in the chalk hill which gives the landscape a reddish tint.

The community today is considered a temporary settlement and comprises 61 families numbering 122 adults and 119 children. The population is augmented by approximately 120 religious soldiers who study at the yeshiva at the settlement in a special army "hesder" program which allows religious youth to combine their military service with continuing religious training.

The community of Ma'ale Adumim is one of the very few in Israel today comprised of mixed religious and secular elements, and was first settled in December 1975 as a worker's camp which soon expanded to include living quarters for settlers. By March 1979 the community had attained a stage sufficient to warrant the setting up of a local government council, which is headed by Avner Peretz, who will be addressing the 1980 Prime Minister's Conference during their visit to the community.

Covering 66 dunams of land, the community provides a variety of services, including kindergarten and school up to grade 3, a medical clinic, a child care clinic (Tipat Halav), a nurse, ambulance, cultural hall, and as previously mentioned, a Yeshiva, mikva, Beit Kneset and a Beit Midrash.

The Ma'ale Adumim council has a total of 35,000 dunams in the area for its future development, including 800 dunams designated as agricultural land for which no specific agricultural project has as yet been determined.

The community has moved from the stage of being a controversial topic of Kneset debates in 1975 to that of an established settlement populated by people of all political views and religious persuasions, and bound together by a Halutzic spirit.

The motivations that have attracted people to this desert location approximately 18 kilometers northeast of Jerusalem are mixed. Besides the attraction of employment at Mishor Adumim, and the economic opportunities of a development area package of incentives for industrialists, there is the desire to protect Jerusalem on its exposed eastern flank since Ma'ale Adumim is the only Jewish community between the capital of Israel and the border of Jordan.

Among its original proponents were members of a political group identified as "Eretz Yisrael Hashlayma" (The greater land of Israel Movement.)

Although the incentives in financial terms are reserved for industry, one of the attractions to young couples moving to the projected town of

*was the first and only*

*Today Mishor Adumim spawned another settlement planned for a smaller community scale, sited on the Wadi Kelt, and a few kilometers from Jericho likewise settled in today with 40 families*

*as well as ready built cottages and flats*

Ma'ale Adumim is the "Boneh Baytcha" (Build your own home) project which enables a family to acquire far larger and more comfortable accommodation at a much more modest price when compared to the private housing market in nearby Jerusalem.

Thirty five percent of the local population are employed in the industrial plants located in the regional industrial park called Mishor Adumim. Of the balance, 10% are involved in services, administration and teaching; 10% in defense and police; and 20% are employed in Jerusalem. The balance are housewives who have no employment outside the home. *sewe*

The idea of settling Ma'ale Adumim first arose immediately after the Six Day War, and was vigorously promoted in its early stages by the late Rachel Janait Ben-Zvi, widow of Israel's second President. In August 1979 a cornerstone was laid for the town of Ma'ale Adumim. This new townsite is presently under construction and it is planned to have 1,500 housing units ready for occupancy by the end of 1981. A total of 5,000 units are expected to be ready in six or seven years. These will consist of cottages and terrace housing, along with high rises not exceeding four stories in height. Over 1,700 families have already registered for the 1,500 housing units planned in the first stages. There is a complete aliyah group presently being formed in the United States, which aims at settling in Ma'ale Adumim in its second stage.

The town when completed will include a stadium and an archaeological garden containing remnants of a water system dating to the seventh and eighth centuries.

The planned town, five kilometers by air from the Old City, will be an important link in the ring of towns including Givon and Beit El to the north and Efrat to the south. Ramot, Neve Ya'acov and Gilc, which are also a part of a ring around the capital, are considered part of Jerusalem. On a visit to Ma'ale Adumim, on December 27, 1979, Prime Minister Menahem Begin hailed the settlement as "an extension of Jerusalem, destined to be a great city."

The industrial park, Mishor Adumim, presently covers 600 dunams of a contemplated 5,500 dunams. It has been built by the Jerusalem Economic Corporation Ltd., a government company charged with responsibility for promoting industrial development in Jerusalem.

Besides the government, shareholders in the corporation are the Jewish National Fund, the Municipality of Jerusalem and the Histadrut-General Federation of Labor.

The corporation devotes special attention to projects that have been

accorded Approved Enterprise status, under the terms of the Law for the Encouragement of Capital Investment, and to ventures that base their plans on the use of advanced technologies. Enterprises that fall into either of these categories, or both, may be eligible for exceptionally advantageous terms.

A detailed city building plan was prepared, a road network built, a temporary water line laid down, a sewage system for maximum occupancy planned, telephone installation carried out, and an electric grid installed. Due to lack of electricity at present, the corporation has relied on eight generators as a stop-gap measure.

*Jews and Arabs*

At Mishor Adumim, over 650 workers are now employed in approximately 25 enterprises that have begun functioning located in 16 buildings constructed by the J.E.C. Eight other enterprises operate in their own buildings.

Mishor Adumim for purposes of investment has been designated an industrial area "A", which means that plants established there are entitled to a 40% linked loan, and a 35% grant. The linked loan is an innovation in Israel's industrial community, since until very recently government grants to industry were unlinked. Industrialists have expressed concern about the feasibility of meeting payments on a loan which is linked as to both principle and interest to the cost of living index, or the American dollar.

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Eleven of the owners or managers of industries operating at Mishor Adumim live at Ma'ale Adumim. Among the industries currently in operation are four plants operated by American immigrants. These are: Birns Oceanographics Ltd., manufacturers of underwater lighting (not yet in production), founded by Eli Bar Hai; Kalia Limited, manufacturers of small calibre ammunition from recycled cartridges, established by Rafie Epan and Zeev Kaptowski; Metals and Salvage, Ltd., established by Jerry Goodman, and Metro Product Development, a toy manufacturer, established by George Cass.

Among the larger industries in the industrial park are Hakshaah Ltd., a thermal treatment plant for metal specializing in steel hardening; Airon Ltd., Hydraulic Lifts, producing among other items gun mounts for export; Oholiab Ltd., compressors; Quilts of Israel Ltd., which exports sleeping bags; Etz Alon Ltd., makers of kitchen cabinet doors for export; Adumim Chemicals Ltd., a producer of innovative emulsifiers for food manufacturing, and Eshcol Wineries, producers of many lines of wines and liquors including Israel's most expensive wine, "Conditon."

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