

Oral History Interview Transcript

Interviewer: Ariel Barnea

Interviewee: Benjamin “Ben” Barnea

Date: 03/03/2023

Ariel Barnea (AB):

Hi! Saba! Can you hear me?

Ben Barnea (BB):

Yeah.

AB:

Okay, cool. Okay, so let's start the interview. So basically, I'm going to go over a few housekeeping things and previous notes, and then we can actually start asking some questions. Is that all right?

BB:

Anything you wish.

AB:

Cool, awesome. So basically, this project is a part of an undergraduate course at the University of Chicago that I'm taking about energy in world civilizations. And so basically the goals of project is to document the everyday experiences of using and producing energy as it's kind of changed and evolved from the twentieth century through the twenty-first century and the modern day. The goal is to help us in carrying out interview based research and teaching us and helping us learn about energy and its recent history and its evolution. And so don't worry if you have like, no special knowledge on the history of energy or technology, or anything. None of that is necessary to participate in the project, we just kind of want to hear about your human experiences of producing and using energy in your daily life and the changes that kind of energy usage has seen throughout your lifetime. Does that make sense?

BB:

Absolutely.

AB:

Yeah. And so the interview will basically just be like me asking you questions over Zoom, that

I've prepared. And so the questions are basically going to be about your life. And so I just wanna like reiterate, first and foremost, that whatever question I ask, you have the right to refuse to, you have the right not to answer if you don't feel like answering it, don't feel like it's productive, or you don't really want to talk about that. Do not worry at all. Just say like, I don't wanna talk about that, and I will skip the question. And just to confirm now that, like, we're recording, it's okay if I'm recording the interview and have a transcript of the interview.

BB:

Yeah, that's fine.

AB:

Okay. And so after the interviews completed, I'm gonna take this recording and I'm gonna make a transcript out of it, and that's gonna be submitted and stored at the University of Chicago historical archives and it's gonna be used as a historical document for posterity so that future researchers and anthropologists, and whoever can kind of use this interview as a primary source to kind of learn about the way that energy has evolved in the twentieth and twenty-first century, particularly well into the future when maybe we don't have as good evidence or sources about kind of what happened during the twentieth century.

AB:

And also, if you want, confidentiality is something that we can maintain. So if you want, if you want me to use pseudonyms when I submit the transcript and things like that, we could also do that.

BB:

No. Whatever you need to do, go ahead and do it. Don't worry. Everything is fine with me.

AB:

Cool. Okay, so then we'll start the interview. Is that okay? Are you ready?

BB:

Ready!

AB:

Awesome. So first things first, can you just briefly introduce yourself?

BB:

My name is Ben Barnea. I am 89 years old, and I am the grandfather of your student, Ariel Barnea.

AB:

Do you wanna talk a little bit about your background and your life briefly?

BB:

If you want to no problem. I was born in Romania the 1934. Before World War 2 started, we lived in a small city called Dorohoi, and my father was a wheat trader. I guess it was in 1938, 39, when we had a pogrom on our house, when the Romanian army retreated from Moldova. In 1940, 41, we were deported to Ukraine, to a ghetto. The situation was very, very difficult and very harsh. We didn't have, we didn't have what to eat. We were hungry, we were sick, we were beaten. We had to hide ourselves so that the soldiers, the Romanian Nazi soldiers, would not catch us in order to deport us, to Auschwitz. Yeah, these places where people are getting killed. At the end, we survived the war. We returned to Romania, and I had problems getting into school because I missed the three years. First year, second year. In 1948, I was already 12 years old, and I decided to immigrate to Israel, and to leave my mother and my sister and Romania, and I will immigrate to Israel. I forgot to let you know that, during our stay in Ukraine, in the Mogilev ghetto, I lost my father to typhus, and he was buried over there, and I don't know even the place where he was buried. I went to Ukraine twice, from Israel, to find the burial place, but I couldn't find it, so I was very much disappointed of the fact that they don't have a place where to go. You see. I have pictures of my father. I don't have anything else. In 1948, I immigrated to Israel, together with 7,500 people, on the ship which is called, Panclastion and Panyork. And so we started our journey from the port of Burgas in Bulgaria. When we got closer to the waters of Palestine in 1948, at the end of '48, the British Army, British Navy ships caught us and they gave us an ultimatum. Either we give up our trip or they gonna shoot. And the defense forces that we had on the ship decided to give up because we were many children, and many adults. The British. The British took our ships, two ships, Panclastion and Panyork, to Cyprus. And since I was a child, we are permitted to stay in Cyprus for half a year, 6 months, and afterwards we were allowed to immigrate to Palestine. In 1948, at the end of '48, we came '49 basically, the [Hebrew: סוכנות] agency took us to a Kibbutz, where I was, til I got recruited to the army. I finished, I finished the army. And then I went to a college to study physical education. But before that, I need to tell you that I practice a lot of track and field, and I became the Israeli Youth Champion in Pentathlon. And in the army, I was an officer responsible for the physical education of the new recruits that were recruited to the army. At the end of the two and a half years, I went to a college to study physical education. And after two years of teaching in school, I was permitted to immigrate, I was permitted to New York University, and I came to the States in 1960. But since I didn't know any English, I couldn't start my studies for my bachelor's degree, and I started the English course for 6 months. And afterwards because my Dean of Foreign Students decided that the level of English I know is not good enough in order to pursue my courses at school. He said, that I need to take another semester just in English. During this course

of time, I went to Columbia University, and I talked to the Dean of Foreign Students, which gave me an option, and I started an option to be tested in English again. And if I'm gonna be proficient in English, I'll be allowed to take courses toward my degree. It was a proposition that I accepted. I got tested, and that the Dean accepted the fact that I had enough knowledge of English to start taking my courses for the degree. In the end, I graduated from Columbia University in business administration, and here I am now, 89 years old, where I see my grandchild, Ariel Barnea, an excellent student, studying at the University of Chicago, and I am very proud of his achievements, and being an excellent student. Good luck to you, my boy!

AB:

Thank you. Thank you, and thank you for kind of walking us through your life. I really appreciate that. So if we can go back to after you moved to Israel, and you worked at the Kibbutz. I believe it was Kibbutz Nir David? Can you talk a little bit about what that was like? And how that work, compared to the work that you did later on in your life?

BB:

Yeah. When we came to Israel in 1948. We were assigned to a Kibbutz named Tel Amal, or Nir David, which is a beautiful settlement, and the people treated us wonderful. We started to start Hebrew, and to study a little bit in the afternoon, and to work a few hours in the morning in the fields. We are at the end of our stay in the Kibbutz, we were recruited to the army because we were already 18 years old, and I decided not to go back to the Kibbutz to continue my life because I wanted, I decided to go and study and have a profession and be able to support my life. And this is why I want to study at the Physical Education College, and at the end I was a physical education teacher. And I was not satisfied with my teaching profession, so I decided to go study at the University of New York that I was admitted over there after I sent all my applications.

AB:

So, when you worked in the Kibbutz, you mentioned that you work in the fields and spent your time between working and studying. How was that work compared to the work that you did later on in your life?

BB:

Well, this was an experience which I liked it very much. I never worked in the fields. Since the economics of the Kibbutz is that everybody needs to work in all kinds of fields of the Kibbutz, and since we're children, 13 years old at that time, 14 years old, we were put in different fields. And this was during our stay – work in the afternoon, I'm sorry work in the morning, and 3 or 4 hours study in the afternoon. That's it.

AB:

That makes sense. And so, when you worked in the Kibbutz, what was the energy infrastructure there, and how does the way that you lived in the Kibbutz compare to later on in your life?

BB:

Well, of course, in those years, everything was working based on the fact that we used gasoline at that time, in the kitchen, and to warm up our rooms. And we're using our vehicles, using the tractors for working in the field. We didn't have any appliances in our rooms except for the electricity that we needed for everyday life. And yeah. But in the kitchen of the main eating hall, were kitchen appliances that we that were used based on the gasoline. And they, in order to make food for about 400 to 500 people that lived in the Kibbutz at that time. This was the situation in 1949, 1950, and so on.

AB:

That makes sense, awesome. Thank you for talking a little bit about that. So you mentioned that you served in army when you were 18, and you spent a few years there, so I was wondering if you can talk a little bit about that time in your life, and the way that you saw Israel's infrastructure develop in that time as somebody who was really involved in the development of Israel.

BB:

So now you wanna hear a little bit about my experience in the army?

AB:

Yeah, and what that was like as someone who served in the army of a country that was just founded.

BB:

Yeah. I served in the army. It was a recruiting camp. We had about a 1,000 recruits, and I was an officer responsible for physical education. And for the recruits to be able of fulfilling their duties, and we train them every every time, every day, an hour or two, in order to improve their physical, their physical capabilities. I had about 10 instructors that I was responsible for, and I used them to teach different lessons to the recruits. So at the end, almost at the end of my 3 years, we had a walking competition in the army between all the units. We had the Air Force, the Navy, the, I forgot the name of, hmm. All army branches. We competed, we had to walk 20 kilometers, 4 days. And we competed, what group did the best time. So we had to. I had to train them, and at the end, when we had the Army competition between all the different branches of the Army, my team, we won the Israeli army championship. And we were to represent the state of Israel in Holland, where other NATO army forces competed on the 4 day march. At the end, we realized

that this was not a competition to walk the 4, the 40 kilometers every day on a speedy walk. But to walk the 40 kilometers without any soldiers to fall back in the whole group, so that everyone that started to walk will finish the walk. And we did a very good job. At the end of the 4 day march, we went back to Israel, and at the airport, Prime Minister Ben-Gurion visited us in order to congratulate, to congratulate us, and it was a very wonderful day. I graduated after I finished the army, and I said, I went to the College of Physical, Wingate College of Physical Education, and I started to study over there for 2 years. And after graduating Wingate Institute of Physical Education, I started being a teacher of physical education in school, and after 2, after 2 years, I decided that I don't wanna pursue my profession, and I applied to New York University to study business administration. And that's what brought me to the States. Okay?

AB:

Speaking of that, when you worked as a physical education teacher and studied in college, can you talk a little bit about what the infrastructure of education looked like in Israel? And what going to school in the 1950s looked like in Israel?

BB:

Well, the year of 1950 was a very difficult one. It's a, it's about 2, 3 years after we got our independence. The economical situation was pretty bad, and the school facilities, they're also bad. I was teaching in a facility that was used by the Arabs before, but the city of Haifa repaired the building, and it opened as a school. We didn't have a... my lessons of physical education were taught outside the school because we didn't [video platform buffer, lost transcript]... It was a small terrain of basketball, and this is where I thought my lessons.

AB:

Hold on, I think the Zoom is lagging a bit. Could you... sorry. Can you go back a minute? I think the Zoom was kind of lagging, so I wasn't able to hear anything.

BB:

To go back to?

AB:

You were talking about the facilities that you were using for physical education.

BB:

Well, it was not a facility, we didn't have a a physical education room. We had a little basketball, a basketball court, where the classes, when the bell rang, the class that had the physical education, they came out from the class to the court, and this is where I was teaching my physical education lesson. Our lessons were given to the kids based on the Swedish physical

education method of gymnastics. And not so much, we didn't emphasize games, like basketball or volleyball or football, because we were taught the Swedish physical education system and not the American system, that based the physical education on games like football, like basketball, and so on. That's it.

AB:

That makes sense! Cool. Can you compare what it was like teaching in schools back then to what it's like in Israel now?

BB:

Yeah, well. Today. You mean physical education, right?

AB:

Yeah, physical education or education in general in Israel.

BB:

Yeah, well. Today, the state of Israel, and the economical situation in Israel today, or a year ago, or a few years ago, improved greatly. So the State took responsibility to build schools in every city, in every village. And at the beginning it was quite difficult because they didn't build physical education... rooms. Hall? Or room? How do you say in English?

AB:

I think room.

BB:

Whatever. And now the situation, of course, has improved a lot. We have basketball courts and volleyball courts and football courts and gymnastic halls. [Lost in Zoom buffer] during the winter. And although we cannot reach the stage to compare it with the physical education in the States or in other European countries, but if you compare it, if you compare to the years of 1948 and 1949 and 1950, it's still different and it's a lot better, and it improved because of the investments there were made by the State in order to improve the field of physical education.

AB:

That makes sense. Do you feel like energy development had any contribution in some way to that development?

BB:

Energy contribution? I would say yes in a way. After we have discovered in our Mediterranean Sea that we have over there... gasoline. Oil. We were exporting from these, from the fields of oil

in the Mediterranean Sea. We got a lot of income that came into the State of Israel, because the state of Israel was selling the oil that we produced, that we got from the sea. And from this income that came into this state, the State invested a lot, and building schools and building courts and building basketball courts. A lot of facility situations got much better after that.

AB:

That makes sense, awesome. So I was kind of hoping to shift a little bit now to talking about your time after the Kibbutz and as a teacher. You came to the United States in the 1960, so if you can talk a little bit about what that, how that lifestyle, and how that infrastructure in the United States compared to Israel. Did it surprise you at all, how developed the United States was, maybe, or did Israel seem to be about on par? Can you talk about that?

BB:

Yeah, well, coming to New York was realizing a dream that I had. When we came back to Romania from the ghetto, the concentration camps. I didn't have, I didn't have what to eat. I lost my father over there. My mother didn't work. So our what economical situation was very, very bad. We got supported a little bit by the American Joint [referring to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, a Jewish relief organization founded in 1914 that is based in New York City]. I got a little bit of [Zoom lag], a little bit of clothing, and a few packages of food, and this is what helped us a lot to maintain, and the fact that we got it from America, from the Joint of America. I started to think a lot about what this country, and the people of this country, the Americans – what they did for the people that came back from this *war*. The family that was destroyed, the family that came back without a father, and a mother that didn't have any profession and didn't have any income, except the help that we got from the American Joint. And in my head, it was it, I had a dream, a dream to see what America is. I've seen in the movies afterwards – the houses, the people, the cars, the industry, the economics of this country, and I was enthusiastic about what America can give us, so I'll always, I always dream of coming to America, and of course the dream was, in America, to have a profession, and be able to maintain a style of life, that will be a style that will give us the ability to live a good life. And this is what I expected from the American dream. And, thanks to God, I came to America, I studied, I graduated in business administration, and I had a very good life in America, thank you.

AB:

You mentioned cars, the industry, and what you saw about America. Can you elaborate about when you came here, what that was like, and how that was different from Israel?

BB:

Yeah. Well, America, New York especially, was astonished to see this wonderful city, with the high towers, with the cars, with the economy, with the stores. I was astonished, and I liked it very

much. I had a difficult time at the beginning, because we didn't work. Only my wife was a teacher over there, and she taught a few hours. We didn't have enough income in order to be able to live a life, a style that will give us satisfaction. So my wife earned only a \$100 a month. And we had to pay our rent, and to buy food, and to pay for the tuition, to pay tuition for the school. But, the second year, we had improved. I started also to work as a teacher, and I got also some kind of an income. And I started, and I bought also a car. And we started to live the American life. We got used to the hamburger for the first, in the first year, and to go and buy a small steak for a dollar and a half. And learning English. And during the weekend to go and see the different places. It was a very, very wonderful time that we had when we just came to the city called New York, and we loved it, and we enjoyed it, and it gave us, gave us the ability to improve by studying in school, and graduating the University of Columbia, to improve our economical lives.

AB:

Was buying a car and living that way of life in New York, was that possible in Israel at the time?

BB:

Well, it was possible for the people who had the money. I didn't have the money at that time. I didn't have a house. I was a bachelor. I rented an apartment and I had to pay for my apartment, and my food, and my clothing, and transportation, and all of it. So no, I didn't have the economy means to buy a car. Sorry. And the tuition that I got it was enough in order to maintain my basic needs per month.

AB:

Would you say that the energy infrastructure of Israel and it's development as a new nation contributed to that, or can you talk a little bit about why you think that that was the case with Israel at the time?

Buffer, Benny didn't hear.

AB:

Can you talk a little bit about why you think there was that big difference between Israel and the United States at the time?

BB:

Well. Israel was a very poor country. Israel was just getting its independence in 1948 after the British army left the State of Palestine. We just started our independence. The economical situation was grave. Immediately after independence, we were attacked by the arms of the Arab countries, and Israel had faced a very grave situation where we needed to fight against 4, 5 Arab armies. Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, all Arab countries around the State of Israel have attacked us,

and we had to fight and defend our borders and our cities and our people, and to survive. So the economical situation was just very, very bad. We had to distribute food [rations] to the people. So these years, the economical situation was pretty bad, pretty bad.

AB:

That makes sense. So when you came back from the United States with an education and came back to Israel, it's my understanding that you then became CEO of a company in Haifa. So I was wondering if maybe that changed your perspective at all, or if you came back to Israel and saw any changes in its development compared to before you came to the U.S.?

BB:

Yeah. I can say, gladly, that the economical situation changed completely. Immediately after the war had ended, and Israel, because we had so many people that immigrated into the country from many countries – engineers and doctors and pharmacists – this gave to the country a push, where hospitals and factories and industries have started to develop. And Israel became, after many years, became a start-up nation. With the students that have graduated from the Israeli Technion, or the Israeli University in Jerusalem, these students, they improve to get higher degrees in America. Many of them went to California, to New York, to study for the MA degree, and for doctoral degrees, and they came back and brought back the American dream, the American improvements, the American work. I don't know what to say, but anyway, they have studied, and they came back, and this has contributed a lot to develop a nation that will be called later on: startup nation.

AB:

So speaking of that, why do you think the United States was like that? Why do you say that the American dream is the reason that Israel was able to develop and become a startup nation?

BB:

Well, Israel and America have developed a political relationship because we are a democracy. We are a free nation. And America was a friend of Israel. America contributed to us a lot of economical help, financial help, and also to the army. We got ammunition, and we got tanks and airplanes and all of that to defend our country, and we became, because of our political help and economical help that we got from the States, our relationship became great and faster from year to year.

AB:

That makes sense. So you talk a little bit about Israel's development as an entrepreneurial and technological hub, as a startup nation. Can you talk a little bit about that and how that's impacted the way that you live in Israel?

BB:

Well, these years, after we became economically almost independent, our industry and our technical ability and our high tech companies, all of that together put Israel on the map. And we were a country that economically we were stable, and economically we were producing all – most – of our needs, except for the military equipment that we needed to buy from America, and other machinery from Europe, to develop our industry. But if you take a look to Israel today, you can say that the [Zoom buffer], and irrigation that we have developed is now used in most of the countries in the world. And the technology that we use in our fields is one of the best, and our productivity and our ability to invent, to develop, to put the work new systems, have given us the economical stability and the economical produce in order to be able to export, and be basically almost an independent country. But we still have a way to go.

AB:

That makes sense. So regarding the transition into Israel being a start-up nation, what kind of role do you think energy and energy evolution played in that? Things like oil, gas, electricity, and the like.

BB:

Listen, because we found oil in our Mediterranean Sea, we became a country that is actually independent of oil, and we export oil now which, in return, we got the income in order to be able to become a very efficient country. Now, we develop also, in terms of energy, we used to develop factories, water [de]salination, because our climate is a very dry climate. We built 5, 6 [de]salination factories, which are the most advanced in the world, in order to supply the water that is needed in agriculture and for daily use for the people in the country. So these [de]salination factories are the most developed, and the most advanced in the world. We are approached by many countries today to sell our technology or to build factories over there so that they will be able to, because of the drought and because of climate change, to build [de]salination factories to be able to supply enough water to the population.

AB:

That makes sense. Awesome. So I know that you came back to the United States in the 1980s with Abba, I was wondering if you noticed any changes in the lifestyle, technology, infrastructure, in the United States, and maybe how that compared to what Israel was like in the 1980s?

BB:

When I came back to States the second time?

AB:

Yeah, in the 1980s.

BB:

Well, of course, America is the country that is steps ahead of any other country in the world. Look to America to see the advances in technology, in medicine, in industry, and we are wondering how this State is doing so much progress due to their ability to innovate, to be efficient, and to produce so many scholars that will develop the country.

AB:

Do you have any specific examples of when you moved back to the United States, about the way that you lived in the United States? Maybe regarding the way that you lived in the house, or cars and driving technology, or the way that you worked?

BB:

Well, of course, when we came back the second time I got a job in the factory. Manager of a production department. And yeah, I've seen the technology, I've seen the industry, I've seen the market. I was traveling all around the States, and of course I have seen the advances, new products, new machinery, and new cars, which has put America to be the first on the map. On the world map.

AB:

That makes sense. When you moved back to Israel after Savta retired, and you saw Israel in the 2000s and as it transitioned into the modern day, what was that like compared to what it was like beforehand when you lived in Israel, and coming back to Israel and seeing it as this new technological hub?

BB:

When I came back the second time from America to Israel, in order to retire. Seeing the influence of American life, American economics, the American style, the Americanization of our lifestyle, in all respects, in terms of industry, in terms of technology, in terms of buying clothing, cars. America and American products were always consider to be one of the best.

AB:

Was that not the case beforehand? What was that like in the earlier years of Israel compared to when you moved back?

BB:

Because when I came back at that time, we became richer. The people became richer. And the

American lifestyle penetrated into the lifestyle of the Israeli people. We were looking to America to see, to import the products in the industries and the cars, in the food, in all of it, to be like America. We want to, we imitated a lot of it, and I think that this gave us, to put our industry and our technology and our fields in a state that is the most productive and most advanced amongst the nations in the world.

AB:

And you feel that because Israel got richer because of United States and because of those technological advancements, that's why that was possible?

BB:

Well, United States always helped us. But Israel became richer because of the productivity and the products and the industry and the technology in the 1950s. Does get an income, that the state of Israel had a budget, that we didn't have a deficit. We had a budget that was based on the production of the factories, in the fields, industry, and taxes that the Israeli people paid. And this has elevated our lifestyle, our economy, and we became richer.

AB:

Can you talk a little bit about the Americanization of your lifestyle in Israel, like what things in particular really demonstrated that? You mentioned a little bit about American products? What about the way that you worked, or the way that you lived, your household, your kitchen, and things like that?

BB:

Well, I think every house in Israel, has most of the products from America, especially in the kitchen.

Zoom froze, re-asked question.

AB:

You were talking about the kitchen and GE.

BB:

Yeah. Yeah. Well, the last many years. It started already, the imports from America have grown, and have affected our lifestyle, and they have affected every single family in Israel. They brought the dishwasher or the refrigerator or a car. It's all was at the beginning, and now mostly is from America. And this has changed our lifestyle and has helped our industry. To borrow ideas, to imitate, to buy machinery, to buy knowledge, to buy technology and all of it. American made. And this is our progress that we made based on the technology that we bought, or used, or got

from America, from American industry, from American products.

AB:

Okay. And so when you worked on the Kibbutz and in the army, do you feel like the American way of life was there, or do you feel like it took some time for Israel to develop, for that to penetrate?

BB:

No, not nothing, nothing. Only economically was over there the American Joint. Maybe food and economical help, but at the beginning, at the beginning of the establishment of the State of Israel, no. We wanted to become a people that work on the fields, the Jews have never done it before. We wanted to have an industry, which we didn't have before, and we wanted to have an army, which we didn't have before. So for all that, we need an industry, we need imports, and we need a American help, which gave us the ability to overcome these very difficult years and establish a state of Israel which is strong militarily, it is strong economically, and we have the defeated all Arab armies during our Yom Kippur War, Independence War, Six-Days War.

AB:

Okay, that makes sense. So two more questions and then we can kind of wrap up. So about the car and the refrigerator and the other appliances that you said that Israeli households started to get because of the Americanization of Israel. Is that something that's very commonplace now, and does every household have these kinds of appliances and a car and all of that? At what point did that really start to kind of permeate throughout Israeli culture?

BB:

It started many years ago. And every year that passed, the imports from America have grown and have influenced our lifestyle. And in all respects, in all fields. In terms of, as I said before, appliances and industry and cars and clothing. America was [*Buffer*] in terms of help that we got, in terms of [*Buffer*] in terms of army tanks, and so on.

AB:

That makes sense. Okay, so last question that I kind of wanted to see about, is: you talked about Israel's development and the way that it's infrastructure was built, and how Israel is this new developed nation. Are you happy to see the way that Israel has developed? Do you care that it's America that brought all of this? How do you feel about the state of Israel today as this kind of technological hub?

BB:

Can you repeat the question?

AB:

Yes, sorry. So you mentioned that Israel is this new technological hub that is possible because of America. Do you care that that is how Israel has developed, or are you happy to see that it's developed successfully? How do you feel about this kind of modernized technological Israel today?

BB:

Well, I'm very proud of the the Israeli technology. I'm very proud of Israeli high tech industry. And I'm very proud of the advances that we had managed to produce in industry and in the agriculture. But, we have, we have also started to look inside, into us, and to see that we would not, we need to be more original in the production of new products.

[Zoom Buffer]

AB:

Sorry. Can you repeat that last part? Sorry. I think it's lagging again.

[Zoom Buffer, Benny got disconnected.]

AB:

We're back! Sorry, you were saying? I think we missed that last part.

BB:

What I was saying. Yeah, that some people have started to criticize that we, our American lifestyle, American products and all of that, we need to start being more sufficient and produce locally many of the products that we import now from America or from other countries, and to become more original like, we became very original and very advanced in terms of high tech technology. But as long as we maintain a relationship, the very war, and a strong relationship with the American, with America, I guess that we will continue to have an American life style and American products for many years to come.

AB:

That makes sense cool. So that just about wraps up everything. So my final question is, if there's anything else that you think I should know about, that I haven't asked about, as it relates to your life and the way that you've seen Israel and the U.S. evolve?

BB:

Yes, I wanna see America. I wanna see the United States strong. And being the nation that will

lead the world. And I wanna see this partnership between America and Israel grow and develop. And to advance peace in the Middle East. And America is taking steps in order to approach the countries in the Middle East in order to produce peace. Yeah. And I'm sorry that lately, in Israel, the new government is starting to me to make changes in our Judicial system that will affect the lifestyle, that will affect the life in Israel in which America is not supporting. Hopefully, we will be able to stop these changes and to produce a lifestyle and a government that will be like in America – by the people, and for the people.

AB:

That makes sense. Thank you. Awesome. Is there anything else that you feel like you wanted to add in general to the interview, or do you feel like we covered everything?

BB:

I think that we covered all fields here. Technology, industry, agriculture, all of it, and lifestyle, and all of it. And the world affairs.

AB:

Good. Okay. Awesome. Well, Saba, thank you again for taking the time to do the interview with me. I really appreciate hearing your insights, and all about your life for the last 89 years. So thank you for taking the time. And I'm really glad...

BB:

Big boy, you know I love you.

AB:

I love you too!

[Further discussion outside the scope of the interview.]