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From
Charles Van Devander
1408 27th St., N.W.
Washington, D. C.

January 26, 1954

Tel. ADams 4-4831

FOR RELEASE AT PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD BY
F. JOSEPH DONOHUE, AT 503 D ST., N.W., AT
3 P.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 26th.

Election of Governor Theodore R. McKeldin of Maryland as president of the newly-formed America-Israel Society, and of F. Joseph "Jiggs" Donohue as chairman of its Board of Governors was announced today.

Mr. Donohue, Washington attorney and former president of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, will be the active head of the society, which will have national headquarters in Washington.

Election of Governor McKeldin and Mr. Donohue was by a telegraphic poll of the Founders of the Society, who include national leaders in the fields of religion, politics, education, literature and art, and business and labor.

In a press conference statement today, Mr. Donohue said that the Society provides for the first time a medium through which Americans of all faiths can give continuous and non-political expression to the friendship which exists between the two countries. It will engage, he said, in a variety of activities concerned with cultural and intellectual interchange between the people of the United States and Israel.

The Society will be supported by membership dues and voluntary contributions and will not engage in fund-raising for other purposes. Membership is open to all Americans who see mutual value in the promotion of cultural relationships between the two countries.

Mr. Donohue emphasized that the Society will cooperate with and supplement the work of other organizations concerned with various phases of America-Israel friendship, and will not duplicate existing activities.

"The America-Israel Society," he said, "has been brought into being by a group of American leaders of all faiths and in many lines of endeavor who believe that there is need for a non-sectarian, non-political, all-American organization

to work for the fullest interchange of ideas and cultural material between the oldest and the youngest of the world's present-day democracies.

"We hope that it will help Americans to a new appreciation of the culture of Israel, and encourage the people of that nation to a better understanding of America and its way of life. The Society will seek to interpret the spiritual tradition and democratic heritage that binds the two nations together and to give added meaning to the unity of purpose that characterizes freedom-loving peoples.

"Our two countries are bound together by a common historic experience and a common devotion to democracy. Both nations uphold three great and basic principles - individual morality, social justice and universal peace.

"Continuing understanding and cultural interchange on a permanent basis is perhaps even more important than ever now that Israel is firmly established and is engaged in molding its democratic way of life.

"For Americans there will be a rewarding experience in reviving the roots of an ancient culture on which our own civilization is founded."

Mr. Donohue said that events which the Society will sponsor will include an Israel Independence Dinner in Washington in the spring, and an annual Awards Dinner in the fall at which outstanding cultural achievements will be recognized.

The America-Israel Society was officially organized last Thursday at a Founders' Dinner given by Governor McKeldin in the Executive Mansion at Annapolis. At the dinner Abba Eban, the Ambassador of Israel, "warmly welcomed" the foundation of the Society and predicted that "the friendship between the peoples of the United States and Israel will receive powerful reinforcement through the efforts of this group."

At his press conference today, Mr. Donohue announced the names of additional Founders of the Society, whose acceptances were not received in time to be read at the Founders' Dinner. The newly-announced founders include Frank Lloyd Wright and Van Wyck Brooks.

Other founders include Governors Christian Herter of Massachusetts, Robert B. Meyner of New Jersey and G. Mennen Williams of Michigan, and Senators Paul Douglas (D-Ill.), Homer Ferguson (R-Mich.), Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.), Irving Ives (R-N.Y.), Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.) and Herbert Lehman (D-N.Y.).

Also Louis Bromfield, of Lucas, Ohio; Oscar L. Chapman, of Washington, former Secretary of the Interior; Dr. Henry Steele Commager, of Columbia University; John Cowles, publisher of the Star and Tribune, Minneapolis; Ralph Damon, of New York, President of TWA; F. Joseph Donohue, of Washington; Dr. Louis Finkelstein, of New York, President of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter; Fannie Hurst; Dr. Howard LeSourd, of Boston University; Dr. Howard Mumford Jones, of Harvard University; Dr. Archibald MacLeish, President of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; George Meany, President of the American Federation of Labor; Charles Munch, Director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra; Dr. Allan Nevins, of Columbia University; George T. Newell, Vice President of the Manufacturers Trust Company, New York; Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, of Washington; Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, of New York; Dr. Daniel A. Poling, of Philadelphia; Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt; Bishop Bernard J. Sheil, of Chicago; Robert Sherwood; Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, of Cleveland; Herbert Bayard Swope; Chancellor William Pierson Tolley, of Syracuse University and Dr. W. Lindsay Young, of Los Angeles.

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AMERICA-ISRAEL SOCIETY

BACKGROUND FOR EDITORIAL USE

January 26, 1954.

The step taken by a group of distinguished Americans in establishing a national, non-sectarian and non-political society to promote closer cultural relations between the people of the United States and Israel is a logical and welcome one.

The new America-Israel Society arises naturally and almost automatically from the strong bonds of common tradition and sympathetic understanding which already exist between the people of the world's oldest and youngest democracies. Its activities will serve to strengthen those bonds and thus to widen the all-too-limited area of understanding and mutual good will in the world.

Most Americans feel a special relationship with the people of Israel. They rightly think that the Jewish people could not, at this time, have achieved their age-old desire to create an independent homeland if it had not been for the encouragement and help which came from the United States.

Now that Israel is well established, although still facing many difficult problems, the good will that exists in America can find useful and helpful expression through the continuing intellectual and cultural exchange proposed by the America-Israel Society.

Nor will the relationship be a one-sided one. American friends of Israel will find a rewarding experience in the work of building closer relationships with a nation which is at once young and vital, yet has its origins in the oldest traditions of our civilization.

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VOL. XXI No. 75 - 36th year

Tuesday, April 20, 1954

U. N. SECURITY COUNCIL POSTPONES DEBATE ON JORDAN-ISRAEL ISSUE

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 19. (JTA) -- The United Nations Security Council session on the Israel-Jordan cross-complaints of armistice agreement violations scheduled to be held today was postponed this morning by Andrei Vishinsky of the Soviet Union, who is president of the Council this month. The session will be held on Thursday.

The postponement, Mr. Vishinsky said, was due to the illness of Dr. Charles Malik, Lebanese member of the Security Council who speaks for the Arab states. A request by the Israel delegation that today's session be postponed because it conflicted with the second day of Passover, was rejected several days ago by Mr. Vishinsky. The Israeli delegation then announced it would not be present at today's session.

A report published in the New York press this week-end forecast the appointment of Dr. Ralph Bunche, former Palestine mediator, as Under Secretary General of the UN, with a probable first assignment of once again mediating the Arab-Israel conflict. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold refused to confirm or deny the report. It was indicated that the actual appointment of Dr. Bunche is not expected for several months yet. Dr. Bunche received the Nobel Prize for peace for his achievement of the Palestine armistice agreements.

Israelis Fired Upon at Lebanese and Egyptian Frontiers

TEL AVIV, April 19. (JTA) -- An Israeli police vehicle, traveling along the Israel-Lebanese border between Shomera and Eilon, in Upper Galilee, was fired on today from across the Lebanese frontier, an Israeli military spokesman announced here.

He said that although the vehicle was hit four times, none of the occupants were wounded. Israel immediately complained to the Israel-Lebanese Mixed Armistice Commission and asked for an emergency meeting to consider the complaint.

The military spokesman also reported that an Israeli patrol which came upon a crew of Arabs from Egyptian-held territory near Kissufim, in the Gaza strip, were fired on from Egyptian territory. Under cover of the fire, the Arabs illegally harvesting the fields in Israel escaped across the border.

Thirty head of sheep were stolen from the Ein Gedi settlement, on the Dead Sea, this week-end by infiltrators from Jordan. The tracks of the flock were traced to the border. A military reconnaissance plane patrolling the border area spotted two khaki-clad men shepherding the flock toward the Jordanian village of Yata.

U. S. LEADERS PRESENT PLAN TO EISENHOWER FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST

NEW YORK, April 19. (JTA) -- Warning of imminent chaos in the Middle East, from which only Russia stands to gain, 19 distinguished American leaders made public this week-end a series of proposals submitted to President Eisenhower as the basis of a new United States policy, to be carried out with United Nations assistance, and designed to pacify the explosive situation.

A copy of the 171-page memorandum entitled "Security and the Middle East" was sent to Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, with a request that it be brought to the consideration of the appropriate organs of the United Nations, as well as to United Nations delegates.

The signatories oppose arms offers or grants now either by the United States or our Allies to the Arab governments on the score that such arms would be used either "against their own people, should rebellion against starvation lead to violence," or "against Israel to divert the Arab people from the real source of their anguish--their incredible poverty."

Instead of the present concentration on arms and military alliances, the signatories urge a firm offer to the Arab world of large-scale assistance, beginning with a \$350,000,000 United States pledge to a \$500,000,000 United Nations fund to develop the resources of the Middle East. This offer should be made conditional on the acceptance of two prior agreements: 1. Settlement of the Palestine war. 2. Permanent resettlement of Arab refugees in Arab countries.

"In advance of the 1954 session of the General Assembly, the United States should make known to the United Nations and to the Arab states its view that "the only feasible and fruitful solution of the Arab refugee problem is through resettlement in Arab countries," the memorandum urged. Further, that the United States, which has thus far supplied more than one-half the funds for the welfare of Arab refugees, shall state its readiness to continue such support, stipulating that funds so given be earmarked for a permanent resettlement program under the U.N. at a cost of \$300,000,000.

Both the Arab countries and Israel should be asked to participate in this program, Israel through a fair contribution to the \$300,000,000 resettlement fund by way of compensation for abandoned Arab land in Israel. The Arab countries through the assignment of tracts of land in their territories now unpopulated or under-populated but capable of being developed to support a substantial population.

The resettlement program, as envisaged, would be conducted by a United Nations resettlement agency, whose function would be both to arrange for the orderly transfer of the refugees and their retraining as necessary.

The signatories include: Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, general secretary, The Church Peace Union; Frank W. Buxton, former member, Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry; Dr. Donald B. Cloward, executive secretary, Council on Christian Social Progress of the American Baptist Convention; Dr. Frederick May Eliot, president, American Unitarian Association; the Rt. Rev. Charles K. Gilbert, Retired Episcopal Bishop of New York; the Rt. Rev. Henry W. Hobson, Episcopal Bishop of Southern Ohio; the Very Rev. Ivan Lee Holt, Methodist Bishop of Missouri, who is president of the World Methodist Council.

ISRAEL MINISTER PROCEEDS TO UNITED STATES; SAYS ISRAEL SEEKS PEACE

TEL AVIV, April 19. (JTA) -- Israel is making every effort to achieve peace with its Arab neighbors, but will not permit the absence of peace to endanger the lives of Israeli citizens, nor to interfere with its construction program, Israeli Minister for Communications Joseph Saphir declared here last night on the eve of his departure for the United States. He will spend 30 days in the U.S. in behalf of the United Jewish Appeal campaign.

The America-Israel Society
cordially invites you to attend its

First National Dinner

in observance of

Israel Independence Day

Tuesday, the eleventh of May

nineteen hundred and fifty-four

at seven-thirty o'clock

The Statler Hotel

Washington, D.C.

Speakers:

The Honorable Herbert Brownell
Attorney General of the United States

His Excellency, Abba Eban
The Ambassador of Israel

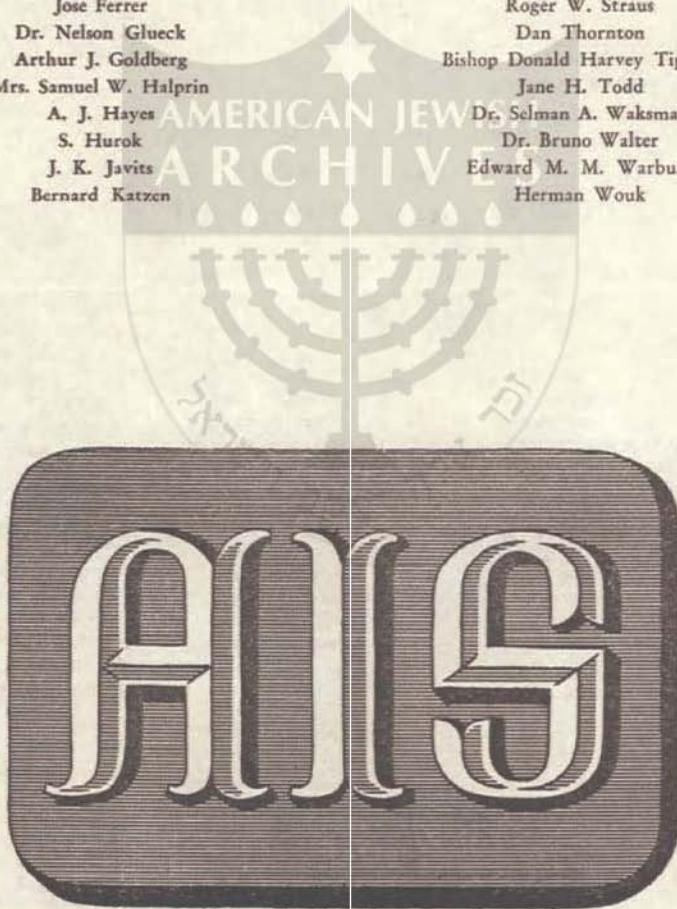
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Black tie
\$15.00 per person

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FIRST NATIONAL DINNER MAY 11, 1954 Washington Committee

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Rabbi Herbert Friedman
2419 East Kenwood Boulevard
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

AMERICAN JEWISH
SOCIETY

The first national dinner sponsored by the America-Israel Society will be held in Washington on May 11 in observance of the Independence Day of Israel. This will mark the first time that a dinner of this nature has been held in the nation's capital, and it is our hope that all sections of the country will be well represented.

Governor Theodore R. McKeldin of Maryland will preside, and the principal address will be made by the Honorable Herbert Brownell, Attorney General of the United States. Greetings from Israel will be extended by his Excellency, Mr. Abba Eban, the Ambassador of Israel.

The formal invitation and subscription card will be sent to you within the next two weeks. Meanwhile, I am writing to suggest that you reserve this date - Tuesday, May 11 - and plan to be present at this significant event. If you wish, we will be glad to arrange convenient hotel reservations for you and your party.

Sincerely,

F. Joseph Donohue

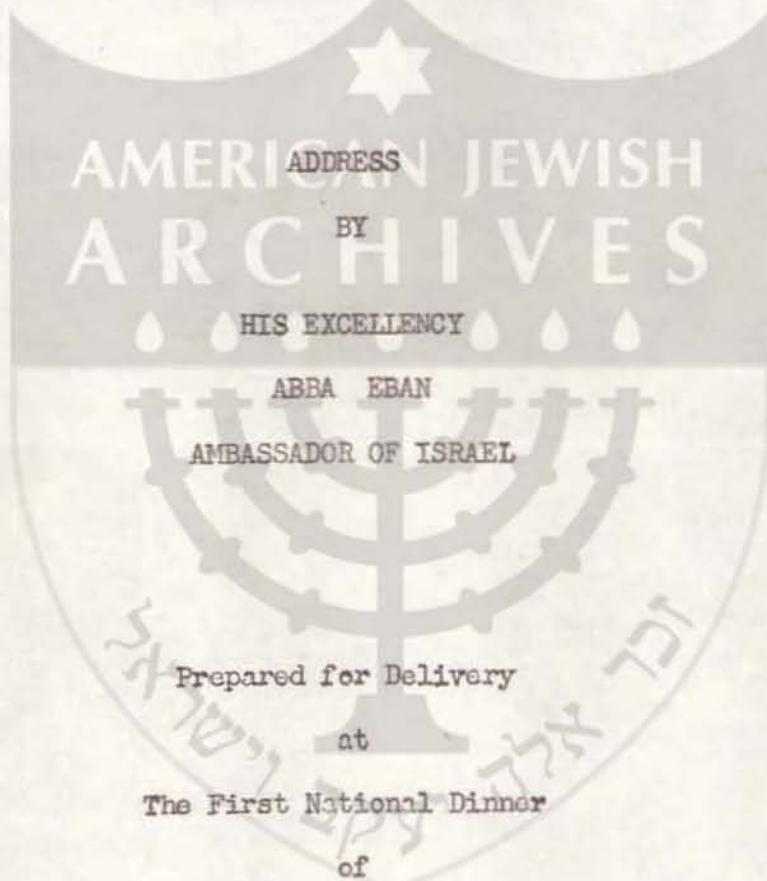
F. Joseph Donohue
Chairman, Board of Governors

GEORGE L. CASSIDY
Executive Director

J-14

FOR RELEASE IN MORNING PAPERS
OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1954

ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE SEVENTH YEAR



The America-Israel Society

Hotel Statler

Washington, D. C.

Tuesday, May 11, 1954, 7:30 P.M., EDT

The cause of freedom celebrates a noble anniversary tonight. Six years ago an ancient people redeemed the pride and honor from which it had been banished two thousand years before. The country from which mankind had inherited its highest message of salvation achieved reunion with the people who had once endowed its soil with immortal fame.

So many attributes came together here to form a historic episode of unusual dignity and scope. The flag of a liberated Israel was now borne aloft within the family of sovereign nations from which it had been absent for so many suffering generations. A people which had but recently endured the supreme cruelty of all the ages now approached the zenith of its opportunity and moral power. Multitudes of Jews who had dwelt in Europe haunted by memories of unspeakable savagery and bereavement, or, in the Moslem world, cut off from access to equal dignity or hope, now entered Israel's gates, there to forget the anguish of the past amidst the visions of a broader future. The oldest culture of the human race entered upon a new birth of freedom.

As we look back upon that summer morning six years ago we recall that grateful fulfilment was not its only theme. The pride of liberation mingled poignantly with a sense of deadly peril. No sooner had independence been achieved than it was threatened with swift destruction. Hostile armies moved across our frontiers. Aircraft bombed our undefended cities. Tanks overran our farming villages in Upper Jordan. Armed battallions converged upon Galilee. Well trained armoured units pushed towards our vulnerable coastal plain, and pressed us with our backs against the sea.

A ring of fire encircled us at Jerusalem where the swift death of bombardment was mingled with the slow agonies of famine, pestilence and siege. From the free world across the oceans no international reinforcement came. The threat of physical extinction confronted every man, woman and child in our country, and threw its shadow over every peaceful home.

Yet within a hundred days of sacrifice and heroism these dire perils had been repulsed. Survival was now assured and the bright hopes of the Declaration of Independence came back from temporary eclipse into our unclouded view. The world which had not assisted us in our struggle had, however, been stirred by the emotion of these events; and warm waves of chivalrous sympathy went out towards a small people which had vindicated its nationhood against every calculation of material chance.

These memories of hope and fear, of danger and opportunity, will forever crowd in upon us at this season of the year. This week our people paused amidst its daily toil to relive that hour in recollection and inspiration once again. It was a moment for review and dedication. We looked back upon the struggles which had attended our youthful past, and forward to the opportunities which inspire our future. The resultant mood is of buoyant confidence overlain with deep concern for the urgency and gravity of our unfulfilled tasks and our ever present dangers.

There were many bright evidences of progress for a citizen of Israel to behold as he went down to Ramle in the valley of the Judæan hills to join the festive throngs in national celebration. The armed forces of Israel marched behind the Star of David in splendid review, in conspicuous testimony to the patriotism and vitality of our youth, its pride in its arms and equipment. There were missing faces in those marching columns, of thousands who had marched away forever and by their uncalculating sacrifice had saved a nation's freedom for others to preserve.

This is an army, an air force and a fleet dedicated to defence and pledged against aggression; the shield and the protector of an essentially pacific people, the author of the oldest prophecy of universal peace; a people which ardently awaits the day when its neighbors will abandon hostile counsels and bring to the Middle East a harmony of mutual recognition between its sovereign states. In the meantime, the harsh lesson that liberty cannot be preserved without vigilant preparedness is as valid for Israel as for any other state in this troubled world. Indeed none can compete with us in vulnerability of frontiers, in smallness of area, in memory of recent onslaught, in proximity to an avowedly hostile region - all within the wider shadow of a world tension which threatens every democratic community, big or small. As he watched the marching columns the onlooker at Ramleh saluted his armed forces in perfect trust, and with a prayer that war would never again exact its ominous toll.

From the youth of Israel organised within its forces, the Israel citizen could transfer his gaze to the free institutions of his democracy. Our Declaration of Independence has its honored place amidst the documents of democratic history; for it inaugurated the life of a free parliamentary society, inspired by the Hebrew prophetic tradition as well as by English common law and the robust egalitarian ideals of the American and French Revolutions. Here in the heart of the Middle East, surrounded by every form of absolutism, in a region dominated by authoritarian monarchy and military dictatorship, we have built a sanctuary for the parliamentary form of government "deriving its just powers from the consent of the governed". The past six years have seen these free institutions meet the challenge of stringent ordeals - defence in war, consolidation in peace, sharp economic crisis amidst social and cultural turmoil. In every phase of this challenge

our democratic citadel has stood firm. Transference of authority at the summit of power has been effected in orderly procedures. The Presidency, the Prime Minister's Office, the Parliament and the Cabinet have all been duly re-elected in the routine serenity which is the true glory of the democratic process. An independent judiciary of proved integrity and scholarship safeguards the individual rights, of which an active Parliament is the collective source and guardian. May we not aspire to see these beneficent examples spread throughout our region, where dictators still succeed each other by assassination and coup d'etat? Does not this first emergence of democracy in our immediate area create for us a special solidarity with all peoples who uphold democracy as a world cause, worthy to win the loyal hearts of men against the sinister allurements of dictatorial power? The flag of Israel waves honorably over these free institutions whose mature aspect and steady strength belie the youthful record of six brief years.

The land over which these free institutions hold sway has itself experienced a sudden transformation. These six years have seen the constant expansion of our verdant landscape. Not since the Psalmist sang of our "green pastures" and our "peaceful waters" three thousand years ago has such a carpet of rich fertility covered so large an area of our land. Agricultural settlement, irrigation, afforestation of hills and roads, the gush of subterranean water and the patient gathering of rainfall in new lakes have all contributed to this steady march against the man-made wilderness. In ever lessening measure will our people be forced to depend upon outside sources for its daily bread; and the rapid spurt of our citrus exports this year is but the prelude to other peaceful victories for Israel's farms and fields.

More slowly but with no lesser promise, have advances been recorded in factories and mines. The patient years of investment and machinery import are beginning to yield their harvest. Annual export earnings from manufactured goods have risen from ten to thirty million dollars, the boundless resources of the Dead Sea are at last in renewed exploitation, and the varied products of Israeli craftsmanship are winning an honored place in world markets, as well as satisfying an increasing proportion of domestic needs. There is no greater concentration in any Middle Eastern country of mechanical equipment and skills than in Israel's expanding industrial plant. Newly discovered mineral resources will, after an inevitable period of experimentation, make their contribution to our economic independence. The Middle East's second largest merchant navy and its largest civil aviation fleet are amongst the nation's most valuable economic assets. They convey a rich promise of enterprise on the unlimited oceans of sea and air in which our territorial limitations do not restrict our natural horizons. For we hold it as a principle of faith and as an act of will that our country is destined and well able to sustain a larger population at a higher level of material culture than now. Economic prosperity allied with constitutional freedom will vindicate democracy in the eyes of Middle Eastern peoples, and help to banish current attitudes of political subservience and economic apathy in which despotic doctrines could so easily triumph. While our economy has in many features attained the standards and amenities of modern western life, many other harsher incentives of pioneering still challenge the country's youthful enterprise. It is a land where present hardship is cheerfully endured in the cause of ultimate abundance.

As his proud but critical eye wandered over these landmarks and possessions of his State, its government and army, its farms and fields, its mines and factories, the Israel citizen on Independence Day could not fail to contemplate the most abiding asset of all, the character of a people slowly consolidating its new identity above the diverse influences of their previous abodes. Nearly a million of those who celebrated the Independence anniversary in Israel this week were not with us on the morning of danger and decision six years ago.

No brighter glory is inscribed on Israel's banner than this epic process of immigration. The zest and vitality of an immigrant community, its constructive tolerance, its tendency to look ever forward and rarely back, a sense of the incipient and evolving nature of its life and institutions, a rich variety of traditions and associations upon which to draw, - these are qualities and outlooks which Israel owes to the immigrant character of its society, as did the great Colonial and Revolutionary generations of America not long ago. But above everything else, our immigration movement is ennobled by its essential humanity. These are brands plucked from the burning, the remnants, pathetically small, of millions who were submerged forever - as would our surviving people have been, but that the gates of a free Jewish republic were flung open in broad compassion in a matchless episode of rescue. The tide has ebbed and flowed, sometimes rushing onward as a flood, at other times slowing to a trickle. But at all times and in all circumstances, whatever the sacrifice or the cost, our gates will remain forever open wide, and both our country and our region will be the beneficiary of any new energies of capacity and faith which we can attract.

Material cares for physical security, political and economic strength, have not monopolised the preoccupation of our people in these six crowded years. In the last resort the State of Israel will vindicate the superhuman effort and tenacity invested in its establishment in the measure that it rises

to serious levels of achievement in the mind and spirit. The years of our statehood have been rich in creative achievement. The ancient Hebrew language, most eloquent and potent speech ever uttered by the lips of men, has widened its empire, enriched its flexibility, and celebrated a vigorous literary expansion, in the prevailing mood of struggle and exaltation. Our people is proudly conscious of its roots in the ancient Hebrew past from which it seeks enrichment of a culture which also draws freely on our long experience of contact with the mind and spirit of the western world. Memorable achievements in archaeological discovery have further reminded our people of its lineal descent from previous generations of Jewish statehood.

Our institutions of higher learning and of scientific research have valiantly advanced against the pressures of material claims upon limited resources. The Hebrew University Medical School has begun to graduate its doctors, the Technical Institute produces its architects and engineers in greater numbers, while the Weizmann Institute of Science worthily immortalises our Founder-President in terms of the scientific humanism which he embodied in his life work. In music, drama and the pictorial arts, in pure and applied scientific research, our country has displayed an effort which is invariably serious in purpose, and sometimes memorable in result. Few achievements in these six years have been more impressive or significant than the emergence of Israel's renascent culture from the effervescent crucible of our immigrant population.

From this rich record of achievement paraded before his eyes at home, the celebrant of Israel's independence could bear his scrutiny across the oceans where other manifestations of Israel's dignity came into view. With deep consolation we have caught the echoes of our Festive day in every country of the dispersion, where men are free to assert their undying fidelity to the collective hopes and memories of the Jewish people. Israel was not created only as a free community on the shores of the East Mediterranean. This was a

climax in the collective history of the Jewish people, a historic fulfilment of universal scope, the establishment of a physical sanctuary for the Hebrew spirit to which would flow the tribute and reverence of Jews in all free lands. There could be no greater distortion of the international purpose, indeed of the Divine direction, which has guided Israel's birth, than to envisage any separation between Israel on the one hand and the Jewish people on the other. The trumpet sounded on our Day of Independence resounds wherever a man feels the stirrings of a Jewish pride. From the Jewish communities Israel has received a vast reinforcement of strength and spirit. To those Jewish communities in its turn Israel has bequeathed immeasurable riches of prestige and historic dignity. It shall be the continuing concern of our government and people to strengthen the links of fraternity and of mutual responsibility which bind together all who share with us the matchless dignity of descent from the Hebrew faith and tradition. Nations are guided not only by their geography, which in our case determines our duty of good neighborship in the Middle East, but also by their history. The providence of history which cannot be gainsaid has woven innumerable strands between Israel and the Jewish people everywhere, as partners in a distinctive universal civilization which we shall neither surrender nor betray.

Finally, as he looked abroad in this review of accomplishment, the citizen of Israel could see the bright image of international good will, expressed in the friendly greetings of our colleagues in the world community, the heads and governments of other friendly States into whose equal company we have again ascended. These august messages of cordiality and good will have recalled to us the priceless attainment of our sovereignty, our hard won membership in the United Nations, our links of recognition, of diplomatic, commercial and cultural relationships with the greater part of the inhabited world; we are not yet too sophisticated to be unmoved by this honor to our flag. To have achieved

international recognition on so broad a scale within so brief a time against such heavy and determined challenge, is not the least of Israel's contemporary achievements. No transient difficulties, no tensions born of these turbulent times, should cause us to underestimate the new dignity of Israel's status in the family of the world's free peoples.

Here in brief review I have recounted something of the achievement and victory of these past six years. Is there not sufficient assurance of our capacity, if we but persevere, to surmount the obstacles which still confront us, steep and heavy as they are? Foremost amongst them is the sharp hostility of our region on which we look with vigilance and concern. We see our neighboring kindred people with its eight sovereign states; its population thirty times that of ours; its continental expanse three hundred times our area; its great abundant waters, still unharnessed, its rich and fruitful valleys; its immeasurable resources of natural and mineral wealth, concentrated beneath its sovereign hands. Is it really intolerable that the Arab people which has inherited this wealth and abundance, this lavish opportunity of freedom so vastly exceeding ours, should be asked to renounce its grudge against a small neighbor so much more modestly endowed, and instead seek fulfilment, prosperity and renown by developing its own huge domain? Would it not have been a deep disgrace to the cause of universal justice if a world which had found room for this liberated Arab empire, had begrimed a tiny piece of arid soil to be the abode and shelter of the Jewish remnant? It is fitting that on this Independence Day we on our side should re-echo the call uttered in our first Declaration of statehood, and affirm our willingness to enter into positive and constructive relationships of peace. A Middle East at peace within itself and resting upon the contentments of honorable reward could be a citadel of strength amidst the turmoil of a darkened world. To this vision of peace we add the hope for economic progress to be achieved by

cooperation between the free peoples of the Middle East. We seek the assistance of the United Nations in restoring tranquility to our embattled frontiers, which have been the scene of so many tragic clashes, the focus of so many rancors. We abominate the boycotts and denunciations, the controversies and blockades which mar the political life of our region. This is no fitting atmosphere for the area from which the call of human brotherhood first came down across the ages to succeeding generations of mankind. Our diplomacy will neglect no opportunity for expediting a permanent peace settlement. Such a peace should be one of the most strongly emphasized objectives of international statesmanship in our time. Nothing will contribute more to the attainment of this peace than the strengthening of Israel to a point where its stability and permanence are clearly evident, and the reversal of this historic verdict will appear illusory to any thoughtful Arab mind.

It is fitting that these great themes should be celebrated here in Washington, by a free association of men devoted to friendship between Israel and the United States. There have been few more poignant or impressive encounters in human history than that which brought the United States and Israel together these past six years in so many acts of generous statesmanship. The United States was the first to recognize our statehood. Nowhere more than here did public sympathy vibrate so strongly and with greater tension in the days when Israel's very survival was in deadly hazard. In world councils the United States has done much to consolidate Israel's sovereignty and to inculcate a wholesome respect for our independence. Your country's great programs of economic assistance in grant and loan have made the American people a primary architect of Israel's strength and security. The Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation concluded recently between us gives formal status to the manifold links of an active working relationship. Your Presidents have

appointed men of profound idealism and high capacity to devote themselves to the cause of American-Israel friendship in your diplomatic and economic missions. The streams of your historic experience, your technological genius, your scientific and artistic attainments have flowed freely into the early formation of our economy, our society and our culture. The American people which, with its allies, has contributed so effectively to the independence of many peoples and, not least, the peoples of the Arab world, is entitled to proclaim unqualified pride at what Israel and the United States have meant to each other in these six years. Our people which writes its history with a pen of immortality will always cherish the memory of this generous partnership which attended us in the days of our adversity and solitude. Since the time when the second President of the United States, nearly two centuries ago, supported the vision of an independent Jewish homeland, the best statesmen and thinkers of your country have looked forward in devout hope to the very event which we celebrate tonight. Both your great parties have formally espoused and advocated this high cause. The Congress of the United States has repeatedly, and with unanimous voice, hailed Israel's independence both before and after its attainment.

Your national memories equipped you well to understand the enterprise upon which we were embarked. The struggles of our immigrants and pioneers evoked the heroic age not yet exhausted of your own immigration and pioneering; our efforts to build a new civilization from so many diverse elements recalls your own success in weaving all the tongues and creeds of Europe into the rich and varied tapestry of a new American civilization. The fight of a small people against overwhelming odds has appealed to your inherent chivalry. The character of our institutions has made America and Israel brethren in a family of democracies whose numbers, alas, are more restricted than we both could wish. The re-birth of Israel was bound to appeal passionately to millions of Americans who are joined to us by the links of a common Hebrew faith and tradition, as well

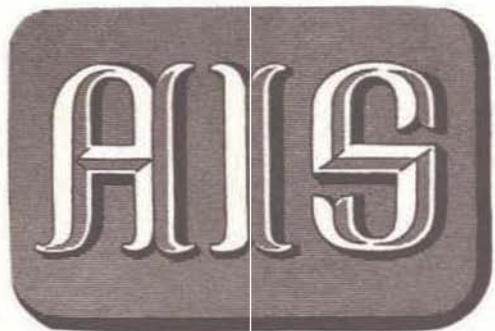
as to millions of others who revere the Jewish heritage as the parent source of their own Christian civilization. Surely the American-Israel partnership, founded on such enduring impulses, is an asset of unusual quality in the life of both peoples.

Let it be then our concern this day to re-dedicate that partnership and protect it against every peril. If it were to be weakened or endangered, Israel would lose the strongest anchor partner of its reliance; America would forfeit the only bulwark in our area of democracy, progress and freedom. Both countries would betray the deepest hopes and convictions of their most illustrious leaders in past and present years. Nothing can so endanger the peace of our region, or more surely revive the prospect of war than an impression, whether real or illusory, that America and Israel no longer stand together, so that the integrity of our republic or its vital interests may still be overthrown. The certainty that American friendship for America's allies is a thing of constancy and faith, to be maintained in all weathers and all climates, but especially in adverse times and against competing pressures, would be overshadowed everywhere, with demoralising effects upon every free alliance. Conversely, the maintenance and reinforcement of our friendship will bring enrichment to the national life of both our peoples; will enable us to strive together for our common goals of Middle Eastern peace and will dispel the neighboring hostility of which a root cause is the hope or illusion of Israel's downfall.

Thus every circumstance of history and tradition, of mutual interest and common aspiration, of democratic partnership and of regional peace commands us this day to renew and cherish our fraternal bonds. The America-Israel Society, seeking to interpret anew the spiritual and cultural traditions that bind together the peoples of our two countries, comes upon the scene in time to fulfill a high purpose at a crucial hour. Let us look back with thankfulness

upon that which this friendship has already yielded. Let us bear its banner aloft, above the threatening tensions of our region and across the differences of judgment or opinion, which are the right and sometimes, indeed, the duty of free sovereign states. Let us labor to preserve our common purpose against harsh deed or imprudent utterance. May the seventh year of Israel's independence fortify our partnership, one of the most noble and moving friendships which has ever bridged the gulf of space and time.





AMERICA-ISRAEL SOCIETY



The America-Israel Society is a non-sectarian, non-political association of Americans which seeks to advance fuller understanding through cultural interchange between the peoples of the two nations—so naturally linked by a common spiritual heritage, by similar pioneering traditions, and by the common ideals of liberty and justice and the preservation of human dignity.

Its Background

The decision to form this Society came only after a careful study to determine whether such an association would fill a genuine need. During several months the Founders obtained the views of a number of outstanding leaders both of Jewish and of other organizations interested in the relations between the United States and Israel.

From the outset, they gave warm encouragement and moral support, although the Society is an independent entity. There was complete agreement that an association concerned with stimulation of cultural and educational interchange could do much to preserve and strengthen the mutual understanding that arises from the spiritual tradition and democratic heritage that bind the two nations together.

Formal establishment of the Society took place at a Founders' Dinner given by Governor and Mrs. Theodore R. McKeldin on January 21, 1954 in Government House in Annapolis, Maryland. The Founders conceived of the Society as a country-wide organization composed of residents of the United States who are in sympathy with its aims.

They agreed that the Society could perform its best service by not merely avoiding duplication of the efforts of others but by actually cooperating with them in appropriate cultural and educational endeavours. On March 8, 1954 the Society was incorporated under the laws of Delaware as a non-profit, non-political association.

Since then, the Society has received many expressions of goodwill and approval from individuals and associations here and abroad. The theme of most of them is similar to the words of Abba Eban, Ambassador of Israel, who said, at the Founders' Dinner:

"The friendship between the peoples of the United States and Israel will receive powerful reinforcement through the efforts of this group. While it is natural that the fortunes of Israel have evoked special interest amongst Americans who are joined to us by the common ties of our Hebrew heritage, it is also true that Americans of various faiths have been deeply moved by Israel's new birth of freedom. In these days when Israel still faces many difficulties arising out of the special problems of its region, it is most heartening to see so distinguished a group of American leaders reaffirm their faith in the abiding principles of America-Israel friendship."

Its Program

The Society's activities will be appropriate to its continuing objects and purposes as set forth in its Certificate of Incorporation:

. . . To foster a wider knowledge of the Arts, including the Fine Arts, Music, the Theater and Literature of the two countries;

To advance acquaintance with their progress in the sciences, including the Applied Sciences;

To interpret their Social Customs;

To encourage scholarly research relating to the history and archeology of Israel, to develop and maintain a library, to publish material bearing upon the interests of the Society, to assist in the exchange of visitors, particularly educators and students, between the United States of America and the State of Israel, and to welcome and provide information for them;

To seek to increase effective cooperation in the Society's fields of interest between cultural associations of the two countries through sponsorship of dinners, lectures and other events including observance of Israel's Independence Day in honor of her people's creative spirit and through making an annual award in recognition of exceptional contribution to cultural achievement, and, in general,

To explain the diversities and the similarities of the ways of life of the two peoples to each other . . .

Formulation of the Society's immediate program is now the subject of careful study designed to ensure proper observance of priorities in relation to needs.

How It is Financed

The work of the Society will be entirely supported by membership dues and voluntary contributions. It will not seek to raise funds for any other purpose.

In addition to voluntary contributions for its own work, the Society will accept gifts and endowments for specific educational and cultural projects and will administer such funds in trust for the purposes specified.

Dinners and other events sponsored by the Society will, insofar as possible, be made self-supporting by fees or admission charges.

Memberships

AMERICAN JEWISH
COUNCIL

There are three classifications of memberships and dues:

1. Member. Upon payment of \$10 annually, any person subscribing to the purposes of the Society may become a Member.
2. Upon payment of \$25 annually, any person subscribing to the purposes of the Society may become a Sustaining Member.
3. Upon payment of \$100 annually, any person subscribing to the purposes of the Society may become a Supporting Member.
4. Upon payment of \$100 annually, any corporation or association subscribing to the purposes of the Society may become an Affiliate Member.

Each Member, of whatever classification, is entitled on certification of membership to receive the regular publications of the Society and to cast one vote at the Annual Meeting of the Society.

...y concerned are brought in; that is the only way he knows in which the bi-par-

human beings can be prepared for things judgment shows may happen, we try to be prepared.

Eisenhower Praises Goals Of America-Israel Society

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

WASHINGTON, May 12.—President Eisenhower today sent a telegram to the America-Israel Society, meeting in Washington, praising the work of the group as "clearly in the interest of national peace."

The President's telegram to Gov. Theodore R. McKeldin of Maryland, president of the society, said:

"Please extend my warm greetings to the members and friends of the America-Israel Society gathered here in Washington to celebrate the anniversary of Israel's independence. To all members of the society go my congratulations on its recent establishment. The fostering of better understanding between the peoples of the United States and Israel is clearly in the interest of international peace, and in this pursuit I wish the society every success."

At the first national dinner of the society last evening in the Hotel Statler here, Ambassador Abba Eban of Israel said diplomats of his nation "will neglect no opportunity to expediting a permanent peace settlement."

At the dinner, marking the sixth anniversary of the independence of Israel, and attended by 600 persons, the Ambassador said: "We hold it as a principle of faith and as an act of will that our country is des-

tined and well able to sustain a larger population at a higher level of material culture than now. But at all times and in all circumstances, whatever the sacrifice or the cost, our gates will remain forever open wide."

Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr., another speaker, said the United States is "proud of what it has done to strengthen the independence of Israel. Just as the United States takes pride in its part in strengthening the independence of other nations."

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt compared early progress of the new nation to those of Colonial days in the United States and emphasized that goals of the America-Israel Society are not political, but cultural, seeking to increase understanding and friendship between the two countries.

Rubinstein Named

AMERICA-ISRAEL SOCIETY

WILLARD HOTEL, WASHINGTON 4, D. C.

PHONE NATIONAL 8-3955

May 25, 1954

THEODORE R. MCKELDIN
President

F. JOSEPH DONOHUE
Chairman, Board of Governors

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DR. W. LINDSAY YOUNG

Rabbi Herbert Friedman
2419 E. Kenwood Blvd.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

AMERICAN JEWISH

You will be glad to know that the first national dinner of the America-Israel Society, held May 11 in the Washington Statler, proved to be a notable gathering which aroused interest both here and abroad.

I think you will like to see the enclosed story from the Herald Tribune, typical of many others published in leading newspapers.

Enclosed, also, are a brief statement of the purposes of the Society and a form of application for membership.

Should you wish further information, I shall be glad to attempt to answer any question.

Sincerely yours,

George L. Cassidy
George L. Cassidy
Executive Director

Enclosures

GEORGE L. CASSIDY
Executive Director