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USA

ISRAEL'S IMMIGRATION and AMERICAN AID



by DR. JOSEPH J. SCHWARTZ
Executive Vice-Chairman

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

FOREWORD

On July 19, 1951, Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, Executive Vice-Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, was invited to appear before the House Foreign Affairs Committee as it considered a bill to extend a United States grant-in-aid to the State of Israel.

The statement submitted by Dr. Schwartz to that Committee and reprinted here in full constitutes a comprehensive account of the past two decades of Jewish history—of the Hitler years, the postwar period of turbulence, the emergence of the State of Israel, and the role which American Jews have taken and are taking in bringing to safety and a new life all Jews in need.

Israel's Immigration and American Aid

THE LAST TWO DECADES have been the most momentous in the history of the Jews in modern times.

Roughly two decades ago, we saw the coming to power of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party in Germany.

A major policy in Hitler's diabolic program to achieve world domination was—as he so often avowed—the extermination of Europe's Jews.

The rise of Hitler saw a succession of incredible disasters befall the once-great Jewish populations of the Continent during a period of nearly fifteen years.

Then these very disasters were followed by events that constitute near-miracles: *The rescue and rehabilitation of hundreds of thousands of Jews overseas who survived Hitler's tyranny, and the re-establishment after two thousand years of the State of Israel.*

History has never recorded a more amazing contrast than is provided by these juxtaposed events.

THE FULL SCOPE OF JEWISH TRAGEDY

When the liberating army of the United States, together with the liberating armies of our Allies, received the unconditional surrender of Germany on May 8, 1945, there was revealed to the full view of the world the tragedy that was visited on the Jews in the Hitler era.

American newspaper correspondents reported a terrible fact: *of a pre-war European Jewish population of 9,000,000 men, women and children, 6,000,000 were dead.*

In fifteen years, the total world Jewish population had been reduced by more than a third.

Entering for the first time into the newly liberated Hitler concentration camps—such as Dachau, Bergen-Belsen and Auschwitz—these same correspondents were able to report that these places, so long hidden from the world's view, were in reality death factories.

In these camps, Hitler's cohorts systematically put to death millions of old, young, and weak. Systematically, too, the strong and able-bodied were forced to work on starvation rations until their strength ran out. Then they too were consigned to the Hitler gas chambers and the crematoria.

As for those who remained alive, they were a shattered, ragged remnant.

TRAGEDY GIVES WAY TO HOPE

In sharpest contrast to May 8, 1945, as it bears on the situation of Jews overseas, is a second May date—May 14, 1948.

Three short years after Hitler's overthrow, the Jewish people of Palestine—tens of thousands of them refugees from the Nazis—proclaimed the democratic republic of the State of Israel.

The ebb tide of Jewish tragedy and suffering had given way to an incoming tide of hope and opportunity.

In their Proclamation of Independence—so reminiscent of our own Declaration of Independence—the people of the State of Israel declared to the world: "The State of Israel will be open to the immigration of Jews from all the countries of their dispersion."

And now, just this last May, on the occasion of the third anniversary of the State of Israel, it was possible for the new State to announce that in three years it had received upwards of 600,000 Jewish immigrants, most of them the one-time victims of Hitler and his terrible persecution policy.

THREE FACTORS PRODUCE NEW SITUATION

This fundamental change in the position of Jews overseas represents the joint accomplishment of three major forces:

First, the people of Israel fought for their own independence against great odds, and kept the doors of their land open in the face of the greatest hardships. To them must go a major share of the credit for what has been achieved.

Second, an enlightened and generous attitude on the part of our own Government has been basic to the whole course of events

which has seen tens of thousands of Jewish survivors rescued and helped to go to Israel.

It was this Committee and the Congress of the United States which in 1945 approved a resolution calling for the opening of Palestine to Jewish immigration. Additionally, it was this Government—through the humane action of the United States Army in caring for Jewish displaced persons in occupied Europe, by its support of the UNRRA and IRO, by its prompt recognition of the State of Israel, and through its extension of Export-Import Bank loans—which has helped immeasurably to create the inspiring reversal of fortune for distressed Jews abroad.

THE UNPARALLELED ROLE OF AMERICAN JEWRY

Finally, one very considerable factor has helped to change the picture of Jewish despair and destruction as it existed in May 1945.

I refer to the voluntary aid which has gone to Israel from the private citizens of America, mainly American Jews, through an effort that is, I believe, unparalleled in the history of wholly voluntary giving.

From January 1945, through December 1950, there have been provided voluntary, private funds totalling \$415,000,000 in aid to Israel, and by December 1951, these sums should reach an approximate total of \$500,000,000.

Additionally, voluntary giving has made available large sums for the relief and rehabilitation of the war-shattered Jews of Europe, for Jews in desperate circumstances in Moslem countries, and for displaced Jews who have come to the United States under the DP Immigration Act.

VOLUNTARY AID HAS NOT BEEN ENOUGH

The voluntary aid furnished Israel is, of course, impressive. But these sums have in no wise been sufficient to meet the full costs of receiving, integrating and absorbing Israel's 600,000 newcomers. The major share of these expenditures has had to be borne by the people of Israel themselves. The average cost of transporting, receiving and integrating a single newcomer is estimated to be \$2,500, and the total cost for meeting the needs of 600,000 new immigrants to Israel has been put at \$1,500,000,000.

The bulk of these voluntary sums for aid to Israel and Jews in distress abroad has been raised through the United Jewish

Appeal, of which I have had the privilege of being the Executive Vice-Chairman since January of this year.

Previously, it was my privilege to serve as director in Europe for some 12 years of the work of the Joint Distribution Committee, one of the constituent agencies of the United Jewish Appeal.

It is from my experience with both the UJA and the JDC that I should like to sketch in for you in greater detail the circumstances and events which have motivated this outpouring of voluntary American generosity.

I should like, too, to put before you the situation as we see it at this moment, and to state why, in my opinion, the problem we are dealing with goes far beyond the responsibilities and capacities of private voluntary assistance, and invites the fullest measure of support from the United States Government.

THE NUMBER OF JEWS WHO SURVIVED

In the Spring of 1945, at the time of Liberation, the best estimates of the number of Jewish survivors in Europe were that some 1,250,000 Jews had survived in all the countries of the Continent west of the Soviet Union.

In the Soviet Union, there were known to be about another 125,000 Jews of Polish origin, who had fled to the USSR when the German army marched into Poland in September 1939.

The Soviet Union was also believed to contain about 1,500,000 native Jews.

These, then, made up the approximately 3,000,000 Jews of the Continent, survivors of a former Jewish population of 9,000,000.

JEWISH SURVIVORS—COUNTRY BY COUNTRY

Following are figures on specific countries:

Poland's pre-war population of 3,250,000 was reduced to 80,000 by the Spring of 1945.

These were the people who had survived in hiding—in the forests, where they fought the Germans as guerrillas, or in deep underground bunkers.

In Hungary, an estimated 200,000 Jews survived of a 1938 population of 403,000.

In Czechoslovakia, about 45,000 remained of a pre-war 360,000.

In Roumania, the 350,000 Jews who remained represented less than half the pre-war Jewish population.

In Yugoslavia, 14,000 were left of 75,000.

In Greece, 10,000 remained of a one-time 75,000.

Such was the situation in Eastern Europe, where a total of some 800,000 Jews remained of a former population of 5,000,000.

IN GERMANY, AUSTRIA AND ITALY

In Central Europe, only 100,000 Jews remained in three occupied countries: Germany, Austria and Italy. The majority of these, 75,000, were survivors of the concentration camps, and now found themselves installed by the United States and British armies in what became known as Displaced Persons Camps.

But, in the larger sense, almost the entire Jewish population of Europe was a displaced population—the 350,000 Jews remaining in Western Europe and the 800,000 in Eastern Europe, along with the Jews of the DP camp countries of Central Europe.

The Jews of Poland, seeking to return to their former homes, came back to such cities as Warsaw. Walking into the Warsaw ghetto, they found the entire area, more than a mile square, reduced to absolute rubble by the Nazis. Not even a street post remained to tell a survivor where he had once lived.

Thousands on thousands of Jews everywhere on the Continent now discovered that they were the only survivors of their immediate families. I recall a distinguished head of the Dutch Jewish community, whose family had lived in the Netherlands for generations, who told me that of the 325 male members in a widespread family group only he and three others had survived.

In the Spring of 1945, it could be said that the majority of the Jews of Europe were displaced sociologically, economically and spiritually as well as physically. Their home and families were gone, their jobs and occupations non-existent, their former community ties wiped out.

THE URGE TO LEAVE EUROPE

In Europe, in the Spring of 1945, the vast majority of surviving Jews desired just two things:

First, they wanted immediate help to get on their feet again—food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and a way to earn their daily bread.

Second, hundreds of thousands of them wanted to get out forever.

They wanted to leave the bitter memories of Europe behind. They wanted to leave centuries of ingrained anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe, the rubble of ruined homes in many countries, the bloody soil of hated Germany.

They wanted freedom, and a chance to build new lives. And for most of these people, there was but one choice—to go to a land of their own—to Palestine.

But in 1945—and for many months afterwards—the opportunity to leave simply did not exist for the vast majority. Palestine, under the British Mandate, permitted the entry of less than 10,000 Jews from Europe and North Africa in all of 1945. Immigration to the United States and other Western Hemisphere countries was almost at a standstill.

THE UNPRECEDENTED AMERICAN RESPONSE

There were two bright spots in an otherwise dark picture. Both had their origins in the United States.

In this country, an aroused American Jewish community undertook to supply help to the distressed Jews abroad and to the Jews of Palestine, on a scale never before approached. *In December 1945, American Jews, who had raised about \$35,000,000 through the United Jewish Appeal during that year, voted to seek \$100,000,000 for the year 1946.*

To their credit, they raised \$103,000,000 in that year in an unprecedented effort.

And spurred on by this success and the rapid pace of developments abroad, they went on to raise even greater sums in 1947, 1948 and 1949.

THE ROLE OF THE U. S. GOVERNMENT

Meanwhile, our own Government not only began to assist Displaced Persons in Europe's occupied zones, but expressed deep concern that some solution be found for the DP problem.

In line with this concern, in June 1945, President Truman directed Mr. Earl G. Harrison, then the American member of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees, to make a survey of displaced persons in Europe, with particular reference to the problems, needs and views of Jewish refugees in Germany and Austria.

At the invitation of the State Department, I had the honor of being associated with Mr. Harrison on this mission.

THE HARRISON REPORT—IN BRIEF

I shall not go into the details of the Harrison Report, which was released by the White House in September 1945.

But Mr. Harrison's principal recommendations, made after visiting every important DP center in Germany and Austria, were:

1. That the British Government, as the Mandatory power in Palestine, grant a request of the Jewish Agency for Palestine that 100,000 certificates of immigration be made available immediately so that displaced Jews, particularly in Germany and Austria, might immigrate there.

2. That the United States should, under existing immigration laws, permit a reasonable number of Displaced Persons to come to this country.

The Harrison Report was received in some quarters as visionary and unrealistic. It was argued that Palestine, with a Jewish population of barely 600,000, could not possibly accept 100,000 newcomers in a matter of a year or more.

It is worth recalling these arguments, because in the light of what has subsequently happened, the proposal for 100,000 immigrants now seems modest indeed.

In the last six months alone, in Israel today, 130,000 immigrants were brought in under conditions far more trying than were entailed in the removal of the DP's from Central Europe.

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN COMMITTEE

In the Spring of 1946, there came a second recommendation that 100,000 Jews be admitted from the DP areas to Palestine.

This was contained in the report of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry, established by the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom, to examine the conditions in Palestine as they bore on Jewish immigration, and the position of Europe's Jewish victims of Nazi persecution.

These recommendations for 100,000 certificates, as the members of this Committee are aware, were not acted upon by Great Britain.

HOPES ARE THROTTLED, DESPAIR DEEPENS

And now the years 1946, and 1947, saw the position of the surviving Jews of Central and Eastern Europe reduced to one of despair.

The joy of liberation, the renewed hope for a future of freedom and opportunity, were slowly throttled by each passing day in which it became plain that there was to be no immediate solution for their problems.

My own organization, the Joint Distribution Committee, was actively engaged at the time in speeding the physical rehabilitation of Europe's Jewish survivors. With funds provided by American Jews through the United Jewish Appeal, and by other world Jewish communities, we spent \$25,490,000 in 1945, then \$54,500,000 in 1946, and \$73,340,000 in 1947.

But while we could give the people bread, care and training, we could not give most of them what they wanted most—a home.

Meanwhile, the need for a home was given new emphasis by critical developments in Eastern Europe.

THE FLIGHT FROM EASTERN EUROPE

In the Spring of 1946, and all through 1947, tens of thousands of Jews began to flee Eastern Europe into the DP camps of Germany, Austria and Italy. They poured over the borders of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Roumania. Their immediate goal was sanctuary under the American flag—but their real goal was to reach Palestine.

Who were these people, and what inspired them to leave?

They were mainly Polish and Roumanian Jews, who had fled during the war years to the Soviet Union. Although the USSR offered them citizenship if they chose to remain in Russia, practically the entire group decided that life in a Communist country was not for them.

At the war's end they returned to Poland—or Roumania—with the initial thought of trying to discover what was left of their homes and families. And in the back of their minds was the second thought that they would try to leave these countries for Palestine.

Then, in Poland, on July 4, 1946, just as thousands of Jewish returnees from the USSR were arriving in that country, there occurred a pogrom in the city of Kielce. Some 36 Jews were killed

by the Fascist underground, which pursued a policy of anti-Semitism as a means of embarrassing the new government.

That event served as a signal for the beginning of a great Jewish exodus to the West, in the hopes of reaching a land that might serve as a stopping-off place on the road to Palestine.

After their bitter experiences during the Hitler period, these people were determined not to take up their lives again in lands where anti-Semitism still prevailed, and the risk of further persecution was real.

THE EFFORT TO REACH PALESTINE

And so the returned Jews, joined by others, fled from Poland, Roumania, and Hungary. In a matter of months, the DP camp population of Central Europe swelled from 100,000 to a peak of 250,000.

In addition, tens of thousands of DP's made their way into various Western European countries, where they did not live in camps—but were permitted to stay, largely on the guarantee of the Joint Distribution Committee that they would not become public charges.

Thus, by the end of 1946, by a strict definition of the term Displaced Persons, there was in Central and Western Europe a total of 366,000 Jewish DP's.

The longer these Displaced Persons remained in the DP camps, the greater grew their despair of ever reaching Palestine.

In 1946 and 1947, the mounting pressure of this despair caused thousands to try to make their way to Palestine by unofficial means. Some got through. But even greater numbers were turned back by the British authorities, and detained on the Island of Cyprus.

Thus, for 50,000 Jews, turned back to Cyprus, the concentration camp and the DP camp gave way to the Detention Camp.

WHY ISRAEL FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM

I shall not go into the events which led to the outbreak of hostilities in Israel in the Spring of 1948. These are undoubtedly known to this Committee.

But I do wish to emphasize that the defending army of Israel, fighting off the invasion of seven Arab powers, was fully conscious of the fact that they were not only fighting for themselves—they

were fighting as well for their brother Jews on Cyprus, in the DP camps, in Poland, Bulgaria, Roumania and other lands.

They were fighting for the right of their fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters to come and live with them.

The Spring and Summer of 1948 marked the turning point for those Jews who wished to leave Europe.

Our own country, the United States, enacted the first DP immigration legislation in July 1948, and by October, qualified Jewish refugees, along with non-Jewish DP's, began to emigrate from the camps to this country.

But the chief opportunity for Jewish DP immigration was provided by the newly established and independent State of Israel. The gates, once closed, were now thrown wide open.

THE FLOODTIDE OF IMMIGRATION

In June, a boatload of 660 DP's, the first to emigrate with Israeli visas, sailed from Marseille. September saw nearly 11,000 sail. And in December, 1948, nearly 24,000 DP's entered Israel—more immigrants in a single month than the British Mandatory power had permitted for the entire year of 1947.

The following table will give some idea of how immigration, officially held at a trickle of 1,500 monthly before May 14, 1948, increased to a flood after that date:

IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

May 15, 1948—June 30, 1951

May 15- Dec. 31, 1948	1949	1950	Jan.- June, 1951	Total
101,622	243,538	169,403	128,000	642,563

The Jewish population of Israel, which numbered 655,000 in May 1948, stood nearly doubled by the end of December 1950, increasing to more than 1,203,000.

THE EFFECTS OF ISRAEL'S IMMIGRATION POLICY

Many important developments have followed in the wake of the opening of Israel's doors to large-scale immigration.

First, the number of Jewish DP's in Germany, Austria and Italy has been reduced from a high of 250,000 persons to the present

population of 31,000 persons. (The total number of Jewish DP's who passed through the camps was, of course, greater than 250,000).

Some of the Jewish DP's were admitted to countries other than Israel. Thus, since the passage of the United States DP Immigration Act in 1948, 51,000 Jewish DP's have come to this country. Several thousand have gone to other Western Hemisphere lands. But at least 150,000 Jewish DP's have gone to Israel. The problem of the Jewish Displaced Persons could not have been solved without the help of the State of Israel.

This departure of DP's from Central Europe had two important results. It greatly eased the task of the United States Army of Occupation, and it saved millions of dollars for the American taxpayer.

THE EFFECTS ON EASTERN EUROPE

Meanwhile, a second development of importance was that the greater part of the Jewish populations in certain East European countries was moved to Israel.

Thus, 37,500 Jews of Bulgaria have been evacuated out of a one-time Jewish population of 43,000. Of Yugoslavia's 14,000 Jews in 1945, less than 4,000 remain. A total of 105,000 Jews of Polish origin, both from the DP camps and Poland, were moved. Today, Poland has less than 40,000 Jews.

Also, 100,000 Jews have been moved from Roumania, about 25,000 from Hungary, and some 20,000 from Czechoslovakia.

ISRAEL'S IMPACT ON JEWS IN MOSLEM LANDS

A third development of great significance began to be apparent in 1949.

It arose out of the Israel-Arab war which created a difficult situation for Jews living in the Moslem countries.

In 1949, about 850,000 Jews lived in Arab-Moslem lands in North Africa and the Near East, including Morocco, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Iran.

In several of these countries, the situation of the Jew became a desperate one. Jews have lived in these lands for centuries, but in most of these countries they have been second-class citizens, the poorest of the poor, with fewest rights and privileges. Now, Arab anger at the defeats in Israel was vented on Jewish populations in these lands.

Immediately, the need and the desire to emigrate to Israel became the dominant factor in the lives of these Jews, just as it had been for the Jews in the DP camps.

FULFILLMENT OF A BIBLICAL PROPHECY

Following an increase in oppressive measures in Yemen, thousands of Jews began, in 1949, to pour into Aden, a British protectorate at the tip of the Arabian peninsula, in the hope of emigrating to Israel.

Their fervor was Biblical—for these were Jews who for 2,000 years had treasured the Biblical prophecy of their return to Israel.

"I will bring thy seed from the East, and gather thee from the West; I will say to the North, give up and to the South, keep not back; bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth." —Isaiah: XLIII—5, 6

To meet this emergency situation, American Jews, in 1949 and 1950, made possible the air-evacuation to Israel from Aden, a matter of 1,600 air-miles, of 50,000 Jews—the entire Jewish community of Yemen. This great airlift, known as "Operation Magic Carpet," remains one of the most dramatic mass migrations in all history.

AIRLIFT RESCUE FROM IRAQ

A second, and equally dramatic, air evacuation has just been completed—this time from Iraq.

By decree of the Iraq Parliament, just over a year ago, all Jews in that country were advised that emigration to Israel would be permitted only for a period of a year. (The time limit was later extended to 14 months.)

Iraqi Jews, desperate under the mounting difficulties of living in that country, chose to leave by the thousands. In fourteen months, American Jewish funds furnished through the United Jewish Appeal made it possible to remove 106,000 Jews by air from Bagdad. Several thousand others, who had escaped to Teheran, in Iran, were also moved out. Today, all but 20,000 Jews are gone from Iraq.

A tense situation in Egypt, in 1948 and 1949, caused 15,000 Jews to leave for Israel. Approximately 80,000 have emigrated from Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and other Arab countries. Some

14,000 Jews have gone from Turkey to Israel.

In all, more than 300,000 Jews from Moslem countries have arrived in Israel since May 15, 1948. And the pressure to leave is still great in several areas, notably Iran, where 60,000 Jews are now waiting to go.

The fourth effect following out of this vast immigration was on the life of Israel itself.

THE EFFECT OF IMMIGRATION ON ISRAEL

The doubling of the population in three years of any country, no matter how great its resources, would severely disrupt the normal life of that land.

In Israel, just emerging from its bitterly fought War of Independence, short of housing, its major resources still undeveloped, its energies simultaneously geared to the problems of defense and economic expansion along with immigration, there was bound to be the most serious sort of dislocation.

I shall leave it to others to describe the full effect of this immigration on Israel's life.

As can be surmised, that effect has been drastic. Each new wave of immigration has contributed to shortages in the way of food, housing, and all the facilities that go to make up normal life in a civilized country.

100,000 ARE STILL IN TENTS

For every 30,000 immigrants coming into Israel today, 300 tons of wheat monthly must be imported from abroad to feed them.

Shelter is required—shelter in the form of the simplest improvement beyond an immigration camp tent—a one-room hut, a wooden prefabricated house, a simple concrete building.

Such shelter is being provided at a very speedy rate, yet not at a rate fast enough to care for all the newcomers. At this moment more than 100,000 new immigrants still live in tents. And many before them lived in tents for months.

New cities and villages must be built, new schools provided, new roads, new farmlands, new water facilities, and new economic opportunities.

What has made the burden of absorption and integration even more difficult is that the majority of newcomers have come into Israel with little more than the clothes on their backs.

The costs of this process of absorption are so vast that even the best efforts of the American Jewish community have not been able to meet them. Instead, they have been shared by the Jews of Israel and the Jews of America, with the people of Israel bearing the major burden of these costs.

\$60,000,000 TO ISRAEL FROM UJA IN 1950

In the year 1950, Israel received approximately \$60,000,000 in aid through the agencies of the United Jewish Appeal. Meanwhile, about another \$20,000,000 was furnished by various other American organizations raising funds in this country for Israel. Certain additional funds were derived from other free countries.

Meanwhile, in the budget year of 1950, the Government of Israel itself allocated and spent an additional sum—representing \$150,000,000—for the housing, employment and agricultural settlement of newcomers.

These funds—roughly twice as much as was contributed to Israel from voluntary sources—were realized only at the cost of heavy sacrifice on the part of Israel's people.

It should be understood that since the State of Israel has come into being, enormous strides have been made in the direction of increasing both agricultural and industrial production.

Nevertheless, extreme rationing, extreme economy, became and are the bywords of Israel. The country, its exports far below its necessary imports, suffers from a severe shortage of dollars needed to buy goods in the world market. Life is austere, and promises to be austere for many years to come.

THE KEY TO ISRAEL'S DIFFICULTIES

Since immigration is obviously the key to Israel's current economic difficulties—then why does the country persist in admitting vast numbers of immigrants?

The people of Israel answer: *"If there had been a State of Israel during the Hitler years, six million Jews would not have died for lack of a haven."*

Events since the founding of Israel bear out their answer. When danger threatened the Jews of Yemen, and of Iraq, they were saved.

In the last three years, one critical situation for Jews after another has been met by Israel's open doors.

A NEW CRISIS FOR JEWS IN EASTERN EUROPE

The Jews of Israel are very much aware that the time of crisis for Jews in many lands has not passed.

In Eastern Europe—in two countries which constitute great reservoirs of remaining Jewish populations—critical situations still exist. These are Roumania and Hungary.

In the increasing effort by the Governments of Roumania and Hungary to consolidate their countries along purely Communist lines, the position of their remaining Jews has deteriorated gravely.

Jews—once the middle class in those countries—have been subjected to all restrictions imposed upon the middle class. The bulk of the 300,000 Jews in Roumania, and the 130,000 Jews in Hungary, find themselves with little opportunity to work, with little chance to send their children to universities, with little hope for the future. Their communal institutions—hospitals, children's homes, old-age homes, have been nationalized.

At this moment, Hungary is removing from the cities what it terms "non-productive" elements and is turning over the living quarters of these people to workers moved in from the country.

IN HUNGARY THE ELDERLY ARE DEPORTED

The Jews of Hungary are mainly an over-aged group—50 per cent of them are more than 50 years of age, and most of these are elderly widows. The Nazis killed off the young, and most of the men. These people have been largely supported by relief provided by the Joint Distribution Committee.

Today, these elderly people are being moved out to isolated villages—cut off from help, and with little chance of being able to help themselves.

Hungary has permitted relatively few Jews to leave for Israel; but the Government of Israel is making frantic efforts to get the Hungarian government to permit these "non-productive" people to be moved to Israel. The Jews of Israel will take them in, and the American Jewish community will do its best to provide funds for their immigration.

Roumania is a somewhat different story.

The Roumanian government permits emigration—between 5,000 and 8,000 persons to Israel a month.

The people of Israel feel that no effort must be spared to make possible the continuance of this immigration. Tomorrow may be too late.

THE SITUATION IN IRAN

Meanwhile, there is Iran—at this moment a country of grave concern to the entire Western world.

It is also a country of grave concern to the Jews of Israel.

Iran had the distinction of being an Arab country which did not declare war on Israel. It accorded Israel de facto recognition and maintained a Consulate-General in Jerusalem.

But the rise of Moslem and nationalist sentiment in Iran caused the present Iranian government to close its consulate in Israel as of July 7.

Some 80,000 Jews dwell in Iran. The Arab News Agency recently has reported from Damascus that Iran is about to announce the "compulsory repatriation" of all her Jews to Israel.

Israel, then, is faced with the prospect that, just as it evacuated the Jews of Yemen and Iraq, it now may have to evacuate the Jews of Iran.

ISRAEL MERITS AMERICAN AID

At the beginning of 1951, Israel's immigration authorities estimated that at least 180,000 would have to be brought into the country. At a maximum, they expected they might have to accept 200,000, knowing very well what additional strain this immigration would impose on the land.

But the pressures to emigrate have been even greater than anticipated. In the first six months of this year, 130,000 entered. That the number of 200,000 will be exceeded is almost certain. The number, depending upon the pressures which may develop in the next months, may rise to 225,000—perhaps to more than 250,000.

In the light of the circumstances just placed before you, it is obvious, I believe, that Israel cannot meet the problems which face her alone.

What is apparent, too, I believe, is that Israel should not be asked by the free world to meet these problems by herself.

The history of Israel in its three brief years represents a notable advance for democracy.

The State of Israel has shown itself to be a true democracy in a critical part of the world—which in itself should continue to evoke, I believe, fullest American sympathy and support.

AID FOR ISRAEL IS IN U. S. INTEREST

But over and above these things stands one fact about Israel which I feel merits her the fullest assistance by our own country.

Israel, today, stands as one of the most gratifying and heartening ventures in our troubled times in the area of saving lives.

Israel, today, represents a guarantee of hope to a vast body of distressed people—to the Jews of Eastern Europe and the Arab world.

Israel, today, represents a realistic and inspiring solution to the age-old problems of anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish hatred.

Israel has already saved 640,000 lives in three short years. Its agenda calls for saving 600,000 more lives in its second three years.

Each life already saved, each life to be saved, represents a recruit to the building of democracy and a better world.

The best interests of our Government—world leader of the democratic ideal, champion of human life and dignity throughout its entire history—will be well served by aiding Israel to attain its program for the future.





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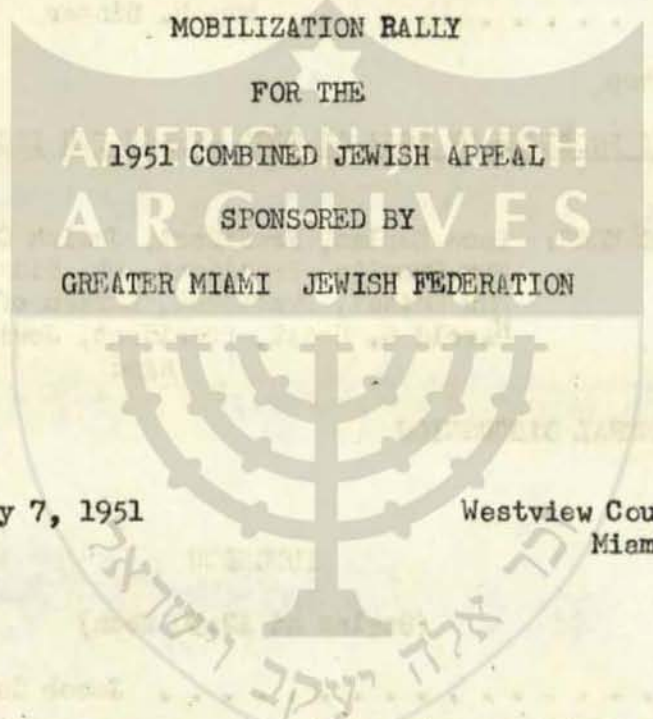
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Samuel Friedland.....Chairman, 1951 Combined Jewish Appeal

Stanley C. Myers.....Chairman, Mobilization Rally

MORNING SESSION

(Begins at 10:00 A.M.)

Chairman Stanley C. Myers

Opening Remarks Wm. D. Singer

Community Workshop

THEME: THE PROBLEMS OF 1951 AS THEY AFFECT OUR LOCAL AGENCIES

SPEAKERS: Leon Kaplan, President, Jewish Centers Association
Max Orovitz, President, Mt. Sinai Hospital
Max Meisel, President, Bureau of Jewish Education
Harold B. Spaet, President, Jewish Home for the
Aged

GENERAL DISCUSSION

LUNCHEON

(Begins at 12:30 Noon)

Chairman Jacob Sher

Greeting Wm. D. Singer

Invocation Rabbi Jacob Kaplan

Presenting the 1951 Campaign Chairman Rabbi Irving Lehrman

Remarks Samuel Friedland

Miami - USA - 7 Jan 51

1. This is a century of transplantation for our people.
2. Israel was created just when she was most needed.
3. Immigration is her problem.
4. Her economic problems flow from her ^{open} immigration policy.
5. Gov't can't say no
People don't want her to say no }
6. We don't want closed doors
BULLETS AREN'T FLYING BUT
BOATS + PLANES ARE
7. 600,000 to come in next
3 year program
@ 2500 = 1 1/2 billion

8. $\frac{1}{2}$ billion from people
of Israel themselves
(Dor Joseph)

9. 1 billion from Jews in
rest of world, which
means mainly us.

10. Four point program
free dollars
bond dollars
private investments
vs govt grants

11. JEWS CAN BE FREE - But it's ^{expensive}

You can do anything you
want if you believe in it
strongly enough. WILL TO WORK
backed up by cash.

AFTERNOON SESSION

(Begins at 1:30 P.M.)

Chairman Samuel Friedland

THEME: LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEEDS OF ISRAEL AND OUR NATIONAL
WELFARE AND SERVICE AGENCIES.

Address Judge Justine Wise Polier
(Domestic Relations Court of New York City)

Address Max Lerner
(Author and Journalist)

Address Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
(Co-Chairman, Allied Jewish Appeal of Denver)

Resolutions Rabbi Max Shapiro

Summation Stanley C. Myers

Adjournment

*** **

Mobilization Day Committee

Stanley C. Myers, Chairman

Mrs. William Capland
Al Comanor
Max C. Gettinger
I. R. Goodman
Dr. Morris Goodman
Mrs. Alexander Kogan

M. J. Kopelowitz
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Rabbi Max Shapiro
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ISRAEL OFFICE OF INFORMATION

ISRAEL SERVICE OF INFORMATION

VOLUME II - NUMBER NINETEEN

27 Tevet, 5711 - January 5, 1951

GLOBAL WAR, SECOND ROUND THREATEN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM--(ISI)--The twin dangers of global war and a second round of aggression from the Arab States make the problem of security Israel's fundamental concern, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion warned this week, in a major policy speech to the Knesset (Parliament). The Prime Minister was confident that Israel can weather both dangers but he underscored the gravity of the current situation, and called for maximum efforts to safeguard Israel's future.

Mr. Ben-Gurion expressed his belief that all nations actually want peace, "but those who most ardently desire peace are obliged to arm at a furious pace," he said. While war is not inevitable, "no one can guarantee that this catastrophe will not occur sooner or later, and every nation is now required to prepare vigorously for any eventuality and at the same time redouble its efforts for peace. Unfortunately there is no longer any escape from the arms race."

Defining Israel's position, Mr. Ben-Gurion declared: "The State of Israel will not lend its hand to any active aggression under any pretext whatsoever. We are able, however, to defend our existence, independence, sovereignty, and internal and external liberty, in case of world dispute, no less than any other nation. Nor are we helpless in the event of a second round."

The Prime Minister placed Israel among the many nations who are "still free as far as a nation can be free in this world of mutual inter-relationships: nations which are not blindly subject to any side but determine their attitude on each occasion from the point of view of what is good or bad for humanity and themselves. Such nations wish with all their hearts to maintain peace," he stated.

"The key to world peace is not in Israel's hands. We are a small nation faced with great difficulties, laden with colossal tasks. But we are not a negligible factor, nor are we powerless -- quantitatively physically, militarily and certainly not morally or politically."

He added that while Israel's forces are small, they are not negligible, and any foreign aggressor already involved in global war would have to consider this before attacking Israel and ranging against the full opposing forces of Israel.

Mr. Ben-Gurion emphasized that unlike most countries, Israel's security problem is one of very existence for the State and its citizens.

(MORE)

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Life or Death Problem

"War was declared on us by those who sought to prevent the establishment of the State," he recalled. "For us, security is a question not concerned with this or that frontier or even independence or subjugation. For us, security is a problem really of life or death; for the expressed desire of our enemies is to uproot us and throw us into the sea."

Mr. Ben-Gurion made special reference to the unique relationship between Israel and world Jewry. "We must not forget for a moment that the fate of the Jewish people in the world is bound up with our existence and independence -- and perhaps also the fate of every individual Jew wherever he may be. Had the State of Israel existed prior to 1939, the catastrophe that overwhelmed the Jews of Europe would have been averted."

World Tension Increases Danger of Second Round

Pointing out that the Arab States are "rearming furiously," Mr. Ben-Gurion charged: "It is childish to think that these arms will ever be used in war with or against the United States or the Soviet Union. Armament of the Arab States, if ever used, will be used against Israel. Our enemies do not even hide their aims to start a second round. Heightening of international tension itself increases the dangers of a second round."

But this was no cause for panic, he said.

"We must prepare for any eventuality. We must heighten our alertness and prepare effectively. At the same time we must continue our efforts to maintain and ensure peace and to conclude treaties of friendship with every one of our neighbors who desires such a treaty."

From the military point of view, Israel is at least twice as strong as two years ago, Mr. Ben-Gurion estimated, but military strength is not enough.

"War today is people's war, total war. No man, woman or child can escape its effects. It is not only the power of an army that is decisive, but also the all-in-all strength of the whole nation -- its economic, financial, professional, technical, scientific and organizational power -- above all, its moral and spiritual strength."

In view of the international crisis, Israel must take stock of the nation's preparedness, Mr. Ben-Gurion urged. In all its major tasks, the State has in the past been able to look to the Jewish people as a whole for help. And this help did not fail to materialize -- at the time of the War for Liberation and in the task of the ingathering of the exiles.

But in the event of global war, Israel would have to rely on its own resources for it might even be cut off from the rest of the world, Mr. Ben-Gurion cautioned. He described Israel as a nation in the making, and while the task of state building usually requires generations, the world situation demands that the process be speeded up. "If we do not form the nation and build up the homeland at a quickened pace, we will not stand the test when it comes."

(MORE)

To expedite the process, the Government of Israel adopted an immigration policy unparalleled in the history of nations. Since the establishment of the State, Israel nearly doubled its population — 520,000 immigrants arrived between May 1948 and the end of 1950.

To many observers inside and outside of Israel, this immigration policy appears fraught with dangers of catastrophe for Israel — and not without foundation, Mr. Ben-Gurion said. But despite the weight of arguments made often by the State's most sincere friends, the security of the State demands that this "bold policy" should be continued, he added. The doubling of Israel's military strength was to a great extent — if not entirely — the result of this immigration program.

The Prime Minister stressed that the immigration problem involved the questions of absorption and social, economic and cultural integration, which in themselves affect the nation's security. In pursuit of security, the Defense Army was necessarily concerned with these problems, and it had played a great role in the education of immigrant youth, particularly in fostering knowledge of Hebrew and the country, love for the homeland and understanding of its problems.

Immigrant Integration a Prime Factor

Mr. Ben-Gurion emphasized that unless immigrants become firmly rooted spiritually, culturally and economically, they cannot become part of the nation and the security of the nation cannot be established. For this purpose, Israel created the "Nahal" — pioneering youth — which provides agricultural training for young people in the Army. The Army has also sent soldiers to the maabarot (temporary immigrant work villages) and they are performing their tasks in the immigrant camps with devotion, efficiency and success, he reported.

Absorption of immigration is a task not only for the Army but for the nation as a whole, he declared.

"Settling border areas and unsettled districts also constitutes a primary security task. The War of Liberation showed the tactical and strategical military value of settlements near Jerusalem, in the South, in Galilee, in the Jordan Valley. We must now again adopt an unconventional settlement policy."

Industrial Ability Vital

Israel's industrial ability is a vital condition for the State's security, as well as for the absorption of immigration, the Prime Minister emphasized.

"Special importance attaches to certain fundamental industries which we now propose to set up and extend. There is great scope in industry for private enterprise, for individual companies, cooperatives or kibbutzim. But security requirements also oblige the State to embark on Government-initiated enterprises in basic industry, and the Government must foster certain industries with or without private capital."

(MORE)

In addition, the moral factor is basic to Israel's ability to face the supreme test, the Prime Minister declared.

"For our security we need a large, well-equipped, highly trained and battleworthy army. We need quick transportation facilities, on land, sea and air. We need effective communications, first-rate technical, professional and scientific skills. We require agriculture and industry that will provide us with our principal needs. We also need sufficient modern weapons of every description. We shall not be able to survive without all these.

"But even with all these, we shall not be able to stand if we do not also possess a courageous nation that has faith in its historic mission. It is not the gun and the plane that fight and conquer, but the living man who uses them. And human ability to withstand fire and death, to fight and conquer, depends not only on his technical ability and skill but also on the spirit moving him.

"Our generation was fated to accomplish the difficult task of setting up the State, defending it and consolidating it. But we have achieved what is even greater -- the ingathering of the exiles. We are the decisive generation in the history of our nation. It is our generation that is called upon to make supreme efforts as perhaps no other generation in the history of Israel. We shall succeed in accomplishing the tasks of our generation if we have faith in our historic mission, if we are able, each one of us, to face and accept the implications of these primary and decisive demands."

* * * *

PRIME MINISTER INTRODUCES CIVIL DEFENSE BILL

JERUSALEM--(ISI)--A bill to establish a national civil defense organization in Israel was introduced in the Knesset (Parliament) this week by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, following his statement on Israel's security requirements.

The bill, which would replace the Mandatory Emergency Defense Regulations by Israel law, would divide the country into civil defense areas.

The organization would be headed by an officer appointed by the Minister of Defense, assisted by area commanders and an advisory staff representing local authorities and the Minister of the Interior.

The new bill regularizes and supplements existing practice.

* * * *

ISRAEL BOND DRIVE TO START BY MAY 1

NEW YORK--(ISI)--Israel bonds will go on sale in the United States by May 1, according to plans of the American Financial and Development Corporation for Israel, whose formation was announced this week.

The Corporation will be in charge of floating the Israel bond issue in the United States as part of the three-year program for Israel's economic development which will require a total of one and a half billion dollars.

Henry Montor, former director of the United Jewish Appeal, has been named chief executive officer of the new corporation. He reported this week that the bond drive would represent "the largest amount offered by a foreign government through the sale of bonds in the United States."

At the National Planning Conference for Israel and Jewish Rehabilitation, held in Washington in September, American Jewish leaders adopted a program to obtain one billion dollars towards the total required by Israel. The bond sale will be an important aspect of that program, which also includes increased United Jewish Appeal efforts, stimulation of private investment, and attempts to secure grants-in-aid for the Jewish State.

* * * *

ISRAEL TO OBSERVE INDEPENDENCE DAY MAY 11

JERUSALEM--(ISI)--Israel will observe the third anniversary of its establishment on May 11 this year. The Jewish State was proclaimed on May 14, 1948, which was the Fifth of Iyar of the year 5708, according to the Hebrew calendar. The official anniversary is celebrated on the Hebrew date.

* * * *

CORRECTION

In a recent story on the sale of Israel pickles in the United States, the SS Henrietta Szold was erroneously identified. The vessel is a ship of M. Dizengoff & Co.

* * * *

STATE OF ISRAEL



*Facts and
Figures
1952*

STATE OF ISRAEL



AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES



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GEOGRAPHY

1. *Area of the State of Israel* — 20,850 sq. kilometers (8,048 sq. miles).

2. *Principal Rivers*

Jordan: 118 km. (73.0 miles) within Israel territory.
(The total length of the Jordan is 252 km.)
Yarkon: 26 km. (16.1 miles).
Kishon: 13 km. (8.1 miles).

3. *Lakes*

Lake Huleh: 14 sq. km. (5.4 sq. miles).
Sea of Galilee: 165 sq. km. (63.7 sq. miles).
Dead Sea: 265 sq. km. (102 sq. miles) within Israel territory.
(The total area of the Dead Sea is 1,050 sq.km.)

4. *Highest and Lowest Altitudes*

HIGHEST	LOWEST
1,208 meters (3,962 ft.) above sea level at Mt. Atzmon (near Safad, Upper Galilee).	392 meters (1,286 ft.) below sea level. Shores of Dead Sea (lowest point in the world).

5. *Mean Temperatures*

Measured at Meteorological Stations at Mount Canaan (Upper Galilee) as highest altitude and at Sdom on Dead Sea as lowest altitude.

COLDEST MONTH (January)		HOTTEST MONTH (August)	
HIGHEST ALTITUDE	LOWEST ALTITUDE	HIGHEST ALTITUDE	LOWEST ALTITUDE
7.0°C. (44.6°F.)	16.2°C. (61.2°F.)	23.8°C. (74.8°F.)	34.4°C. (93.9°F.)

6. *Rainfall*

AVERAGE YEARLY RAINFALL	
Driest Area (<i>Elatb</i>)	Wettest Area (<i>Upper Galilee</i>)
20 mm. (0.8 inches)	1,080 mm. (42.5 inches)

Note: The rainy season usually lasts from November till April.
The wettest months are generally January and February.

REGIONS

GALILEE

Description: Mostly hill country but includes Huleh Valley.

Urban Centers: Safad — Northern Galilee, Nazareth — Lower Galilee, Acre — Western Galilee.

THE VALLEYS

1. ZEVULUN VALLEY: Comprises the Haifa Bay industrial area.

Urban Center: Haifa.

2. JEZREEL VALLEY: (Plain of Esdraelon — in Hebrew generally called Haemek — The valley).

Description: Runs west-east across country from hills surrounding Haifa to the Beisan Valley depression.

Urban Center: Affula.

3. JORDAN and BEISAN (BETH SHEAN) VALLEYS:

Description: The Beisan Valley is a southern continuation of the Jordan Valley which begins immediately to the south of the Sea of Galilee. Both valleys are below sea level.

Urban Centers: Tiberias and Beisan.

THE COASTAL PLAIN (includes Emek Hefer, Sharon and Shefela).

Description: The coastal plain extends from Haifa to the armistice demarcation line south of Migdal-Gad.

Urban Centers: Hadera, Natanya, Petah-Tiqva, Ramat-Gan, Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Ramle, Lod (Lydda) and Rehovot.

THE HILL AREAS of Samaria, the Hills of Ephraim and the Judean (Jerusalem) Hills.

Urban Center of the Judean Hills: Jerusalem.

THE NEGEV

Description: The area between the 31°30' Parallel and Elath. It is approximately one-half of the area of Israel (4,856 sq. miles).

Urban Center: Beersheba.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

1 meter (m.)	= 1.094 yards	= 3.28 feet
1 kilometer	= 0.62 miles	
1 dunam	= 1,000 sq. meters	= 0.247 acres
1 sq. kilometer	= 0.386 sq. miles	
1 liter (l.)	= 1.76 pints	
1 kilogram (kg.)	= 2.20 lbs.	
1 metric ton	= 1,000 kgs.	

LANGUAGE

The official language is Hebrew.

Arabic is used extensively for the benefit of Arab citizens of the State. Government publications appear in Arabic; coins and stamps bear Arabic inscriptions; Arabs are entitled to transact all official business with Government Departments in Arabic; and provision is made in the Knesset for the simultaneous translation of all speeches into Arabic.

Official inscriptions in public buildings appear also in French.

CURRENCY

The unit of currency is the Israel Pound (IL.) divided into 1,000 pruta.

Coins of value — 1, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100 and 250 pruta, and banknotes of values — 500 pruta, IL.1, IL.5, IL.10 and IL.50 are in circulation.

AMERICAN JEWISH ARAB POPULATION (AS OF 31ST DECEMBER, 1951)

(a) Jews	1,405,000
Non-Jews (estimated)	173,000
(b) The Non-Jewish Population Comprises: —	
Moslems	120,000
Christians	38,000
Druze	15,000

URBAN CENTERS — Population figures as of 31st December, 1951.

Over 100,000 souls:

Jerusalem	150,000
Tel Aviv-Jaffa	370,000
Greater Haifa	190,000

From 30,000 to 50,000 souls:

Natanya, Petah-Tiqva, Ramat-Gan.

From 20,000 to 30,000 souls:

Hadera, Holon, Nazareth, Rehovot, Rishon le-Zion.

From 15,000 to 20,000 souls:

Acre, Beersheba, Bnei-Braq, Givatayim, Herzlia, Ramle, Tiberias.

From 10,000 to 15,000 souls:

Affula, Bat-Yam, Lod (Lydda), Migdal-Gad, Nahariya, Raanana, Safad.

IMMIGRATION

* *"The State of Israel will be open to the immigration of Jews from all countries of their dispersion."*

(DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, 14TH MAY, 1948)

* *"Every Jew has the right to immigrate to Israel."*

(THE LAW OF THE RETURN, 5TH JULY, 1950)

Speaking in the Knesset (26th April, 1949) on the meaning of this immigration policy, the Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, said:

* *"It was for this (mass immigration — the Ingathering of the Exiles) that the State was established, and it is by virtue of this alone that it will stand."*

At the very moment that the State was established, the gates of Israel were thrown wide open to Jewish immigration from every part of the globe. As a result of this policy, in the 3½ years from that time to 31st December, 1951, 200,000 more Jewish immigrants entered Israel than had come to the country in the previous 30 years.

Jewish population 1918	Jewish immigration 1919 to 15 May 1948	Jewish population on 15 May 1948	Jewish immigration from 15 May 1948 to 31 Dec. 1951
56,000	484,000	655,000	684,000

IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL ACCORDING TO COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Country	May 15- Dec. 31,				Total	Percent of Total	
	1948	1949	1950	1951		1948-51	1919-47
ASIA							
Turkey	4,362	26,295	2,439	1,198	34,294	5.2	2.0
Iraq	15	1,709	32,453	89,088	123,265	18.5	1.0
Iran	43	1,778	10,519	9,444	21,784	3.3	0.5
Yemen	270	35,422	8,650	698	45,040	6.8	4.3
Other countries	46	6,351	3,699	2,898	12,994	1.9	—
TOTAL	4,736	71,555	57,760	103,326	237,377	35.7	7.8
AFRICA							
Egypt	129	7,145	7,107	2,086	16,467	2.5	—
Libya	1,064	14,352	8,956	6,570	30,942	4.6	—
Tunisia			4,792	3,469			—
Algeria	6,821	17,354	457	269	45,006	6.8	0.7
Morocco			4,213	7,631			—
Other countries	179	307		98	584	0.1	—
TOTAL	8,193	39,158	25,525	20,123	92,999	14.0	0.7

EUROPE

Poland	28,789	47,343	26,499	3,505	106,136	16.0	40.9
Rumania	17,678	13,596	46,430	40,206	117,910	17.7	6.3
Bulgaria	15,081	20,008	1,003	1,161	37,253	5.6	1.4
Yugoslavia	4,126	2,470	419	629	7,644	1.1	0.5
Germany & Austria	1,817	6,953	1,352	634	10,756	1.6	13.9
Czechoslovakia	2,115	15,689	632	295	18,731	2.8	1.9
Hungary	3,463	6,844	2,721	1,273	14,301	2.2	0.9
Other countries	3,493	8,962	4,576	1,830	18,861	2.8	20.9
TOTAL	76,562	121,865	83,632	49,533	331,592	49.8	86.7

AMERICA	481	1,358	1,006	671	3,516	0.5	2.3
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NOT SPECIFIED	11,856	5,205	1,482	248	18,791	-	2.5
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OVERALL TOTAL	101,828	239,141	169,405	173,901	684,275	100.0	100.0
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AGE COMPOSITION OF IMMIGRANTS

Age	Number	Percent of Total	
		1948-1951	1919-1947
Up to the age of 14	192,620	28.2	22.6
15-18	58,149	8.5	11.8
19-29	140,414	20.5	31.5
30-39	97,562	14.2	14.1
40-49	83,544	12.2	7.6
50-59	57,172	8.4	6.9
60 and over	48,333	7.0	5.5
Details unknown	6,481	1.0	-
	684,275	100.0	100.0

ABSORPTION OF IMMIGRATION

The great majority immigrants reaching Israel arrive without means. They are cared for by the Government and the Jewish Agency until they become integrated into the country's economy. On arrival in Israel, a new immigrant spends a few days in a Clearance Camp, where he is registered, has a complete medical examination and receives his basic identity documents. Immigrants able to work then proceed to a *Maabara* (transitional settlement), where they receive temporary housing and work. There are two kinds of maabarot; those which will eventually be converted into permanent settlements and those which have been created temporarily, because work is available in the area.

Until July 1950, new immigrants remained in reception camps until arrangements were made for their final settlement. This often entailed weary months of idleness in the camps. The present system speeds up the absorption process considerably and enables immigrants to become self-supporting and therefore economically independent in the shortest possible time.

The cost of absorption, including transport to Israel, amounts to an average of \$3,000 per immigrant.

During the year 5711 (September 1950 - September 1951), 25 maabarot were developed into permanent agricultural settlements.

HOUSING FOR IMMIGRANTS

Immigrants register for permanent housing and this is provided in accordance with a system of priorities based on such considerations as the date of arrival, size of family, age of the breadwinner, etc.

The Government Housing projects for immigrants provided for 41,891 housing units in 1950/51 and 37,705 housing units in 1951/52. The total budget for these projects amounted to IL.48,000,000. The housing units included temporary housing, excluding tents in maabarot.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The vast majority of new immigrants has no trade or calling and is fitted only for unskilled work. The Government has instituted numerous vocational training projects for new immigrants.

In 1951, 10,000 immigrants attended training courses in various trades. Some 25,000 have been trained as qualified workers in various construction trades, where the wage rates are among the highest in the country. In addition, large numbers were trained during the course of both industrial and agricultural work.

CULTURAL ABSORPTION

Israel's immigrants come from every part of the globe, and from every possible cultural and educational background. Few know Hebrew on arrival in the country. Many are in need of elementary education. Hebrew courses are held in all new immigrant centers.

For the immigrant-professionals — doctors, lawyers, teachers, engineers, etc. — intensive 6-month Hebrew courses (*Ulpan*) were set up throughout the country; in 1951 there were 26 such Ulpan courses.

More than 6,000 immigrants have passed through the Ulpan. On graduation they are prepared linguistically and culturally to practice their professions and thus to integrate themselves into the economic, social and cultural life of the country.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Many new immigrants are in need of special assistance for reasons of health, age, family status, or some other reason. In 1951, these "social" cases constituted 11.5% of the new arrivals.

630,000 IMMIGRANTS ABSORBED

One of the remarkable features of the absorption of immigrants is that despite mass immigration there is virtually no unemployment in the country. However, there were some 30,000 social cases in more than ten camps awaiting placement in institutions or special places of work.

A survey of immigrant absorption for the period of May 15, 1948 to September 30, 1951 gives the following picture:

<i>In Urban Areas</i>	<i>Number of Immigrants Absorbed</i>	<i>Percentage of Total Immigration</i>
Towns and Suburbs	160,138	25.5%
With relatives or through private arrangements	100,379	15.8
<i>Total</i>	260,517	41.3
<i>In Rural Areas</i>		
New Immigrant Villages	36,651	5.8
Existing Collective Settlements	25,492	4.1
Existing Smallholders Settlements	4,760	0.7
Plantation Villages	48,421	7.6
Middle Class Settlements	5,146	0.9
<i>Total</i>	120,470	19.1
<i>Maabarot of all Types</i>	199,446	31.6
<i>Youth Aliyah</i>	23,852	3.8
<i>Malben Institutions</i> (for hard-core cases)	1,342	0.2
<i>Sundries</i>	19,277	3.1
<i>Not yet Specified</i>	5,096	0.9
<i>Total</i>	630,000	100.0%

GOVERNMENT

The State of Israel is a Republic, headed by a President who is elected by the Knesset (Parliament).

The President of Israel is DR. CHAIM WEIZMANN.

1. THE CONSTITUTION

The President is elected by the Knesset for a 5-year term of office. The powers of Government, the Legislative authority and other Constitutional functions are laid down in the Transition Law 5709/1949, known as the "Small Constitution," which was adopted by the Knesset on 16th February, 1949.

On 13th June, 1950, the Knesset voted to adopt a Constitution by evolution.

The following is the text of the resolution: —

"The First Knesset directs the Constitution and Law Committee to prepare a draft constitution for the State. The Constitution shall be constructed article by article in such a manner that each shall in itself constitute a fundamental law.

"Each article shall be brought before the Knesset as the Committee completes its work, and all the articles together shall comprise the State Constitution."

2. THE EXECUTIVE

The President, after consultation with the parties represented in the Knesset, entrusts a member of the Knesset with the task of forming the Government. The Cabinet is made up of the Prime Minister and a number of Ministers who may or may not be members of the Knesset. (To date all but one former Cabinet minister have been members of the Knesset.) The Government is constitutionally instituted upon obtaining a vote of confidence from the Knesset.

3. THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT

The present Coalition Cabinet* received a vote of confidence from the Knesset on 8th October, 1951. Cabinet portfolios are held as follows:—

PRIME MINISTER & MINISTER OF DEFENSE	DAVID BEN-GURION (Mapai)
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & DEVELOPMENT	LEVI ESHKOL (Mapai)
MINISTER OF HEALTH	SHLOMO JOSEPH BURG (Hapoel Hamizrahi)
MINISTER OF EDUCATION & CULTURE .	BEN-ZION DINABURG (Mapai)
MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY & MINISTER OF JUSTICE	DOV JOSEPH (Mapai)
MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS	RABBI Y. M. LEVIN (Agudat Israel)
MINISTER OF LABOR	(MRS.) GOLDA MYERSON (Mapai)
MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO	PEREZ NAPHTALI (Mapai)
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS	DAVID ZVI PINKAS (Mizrahi)
MINISTER OF FINANCE	ELIEZER KAPLAN (Mapai)
MINISTER OF POLICE	BEHOR SHALOM SHITREET (Mapai)
MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR & MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS	MOSHE SHAPIRA (Hapoel Hamizrahi)
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS	MOSHE SHARETT (Mapai)

* At the end of June, 1952, three Cabinet changes were announced. Mr. Eliezer Kaplan was named Deputy Prime Minister. His former post as Minister of Finance was taken by Mr. Levi Eshkol. The new Minister of Agriculture & Development is Mr. Perez Naphtali, who had been Minister Without Portfolio. The former Israel Attorney General, Mr. Chaim Cohen, became Minister of Justice, thereby releasing Dr. Dov Joseph from this post so that he might devote himself fully to his duties as Minister of Commerce & Industry.

4. THE LEGISLATURE

The legislature consists of a unicameral 120-member house called Knesset (Assembly). The Knesset is elected by secret ballot and universal suffrage for a 4-year term. The system of election is by proportional representation. The Second Knesset was elected on 30th July, 1951.

The Knesset functions in accordance with the Transition Law 5709/1949. Legislation is initiated both by the Government and by individual members of the Knesset. A Bill requires three readings before it becomes law. A Bill normally passes through one of the nine Knesset Committees for discussion and possible amendment between the first and the second readings.

The following fifteen parties and groups are represented in the Knesset:—

PARTY	SEATS
Mapai	45
General Zionists	20
Mapam	15
Hapoel Hamizrahi	8
Herut	8
Israel Communist Party	5
Progressives	4
Agudat Israel	3
Israel Arab Democrats	3
Poalei Agudat Israel	2
Mizrahi	2
Sephardic and Oriental Communities	2
"Progress & Work" (Arab)	1
"Farmers & Development Party" (Arab)	1
Israel Association of Yemenites	1
	120

NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES
REPRESENTED IN THE KNESSET

- (a) *Mapai* (Israel Labor Party) defines itself as: —
 "A Zionist Socialist Party aiming at the ingathering of the Jewish People from the Diaspora, the upbuilding of the State of Israel, and a socialist regime founded on spiritual and political freedom. Its internal policy stands for democracy, and a state-planned economy based on the development of the cooperative sector in coordination with the development of constructive private enterprises. Its foreign policy stands for non-identification with any bloc and is based on the strengthening of the political and moral authority of the United Nations Organization."

- (b) *General Zionist Party* defines itself as: —
"A Liberal Party calling for free private enterprise and unitary national education independent of party politics."
- (c) *Maḥam* (United Workers' Party) defines itself as: —
"A left-wing Zionist Socialist Party aiming at the ingathering of the Jewish People within a Socialist Jewish State and the training of Jewish youth in Israel and the Diaspora for pioneering settlement. It stands for progressive social legislation and freedom of conscience, and opposes all discrimination within the State. Its program postulates a Government based on a united Socialist Front, Jewish-Arab working-class solidarity, an active anti-fascist policy aiming at permanent international peace, and friendship between Israel and the Soviet Union as well as other progressive forces of the world. It opposes the establishment in Israel of military, economic or other bases by foreign powers."
- (d) *Hapoel Hamizrabi* (Mizrabi workers) platform states: —
"Both the laws and the planned development of the State must be based on the Torah. The Party stands for the social and economic equality of men and women, but demands strict observance of the laws of personal status contained in the Torah. The Party also stands for unlimited immigration, maximum development of Israel's agriculture and equal treatment of the private and cooperative economic sectors."
- (e) *Herut Party* defines itself as: —
"A party founded by the Irgun Zvai Leumi, in opposition to the present regime in Israel. It calls for the territorial integrity of Eretz Israel (Land of Israel) in its historic boundaries on both sides of the Jordan, for private initiative in the economic and social structure of the State, and for the institution of reforms towards the attainment of social justice and the inalienable individual freedom of man."
- (f) *Israel Communist Party* defines itself as: —
"The only Jewish-Arab Party in Israel; its aim, Socialism. Basing itself on the Marxist theory of class struggle and guided by the theory of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin, the Party fights for peace, the real independence of Israel, genuine democracy, civil and national equality of rights, and for the interests of the toiling masses."

- (g) *Progressive Party* defines itself as: —
"A non-Socialist Party with progressive liberal tendencies, comprising both middle and working-class memberships."
- (h) *Agudat Israel Party* platform states: —
"The Party stands for the strictest observance of the Torah in the administration of the State, with jurisdiction entrusted to rabbinical authorities. The Party demands the speeding up of the ingathering of the exiles, the opening up of the country to private investment and State control of the Labor Exchanges and the Sick Funds."
- (i) *Israel Arab Democrats' Party* platform states: —
"In addition to its specific demands for the Arab community in Israel, the Party demands Israel's cooperation within the framework of the United Nations in ensuring world peace and improving the political, economic and social conditions of the Asiatic and African nations."
- (j) *The Mizrahi Party* platform states: —
"The Party demands that legislation be based on Jewish jurisprudence and that the cultural climate of the country be determined by the tradition of the Torah. The Party stands for private enterprise and competition and for health, unemployment and old age insurance."
- (k) *Poalei Agudat Israel (Agudat Israel Workers') Party* platform states: —
"No legal code other than that of the Torah is acceptable for the State of Israel. An eight-hour work day, fair wages, adequate protection against the exploitation of workers and full employment are to be safeguarded. The Party opposes the formal equality of men and women."
- (l) *Sephardic and Oriental Communities Party* program states: —
"The Party represents the special interests of the Sephardic community in Israel and will cooperate in the Knesset with the General Zionists. The Party further demands a uniform State education system based on the Torah."
- (m) "*Progress and Work*" (Arab) *Party*. Their program states: —
"The party stands for the development of the Arab villages by the organization and encouragement of producer-cooperative associations, irrigation and the use of modern equipment.
The party sees the solution of the problem of the Arab refugees in Israel in their resettlement in agriculture, trade and industry."

- (n) "*Farmers and Development Party*" (Arab). Their program states: —
 "In addition to its specific demands for the Arab community in Israel the Party stands for organization of Arab labor in close cooperation with the Histadrut."
- (o) *Israel Association of Yemenites*. This group's program states: —
 "The Association stands for the preservation of the traditional religious qualities of the Yemenite community and for the preservation of the independent community organization of the Yemenite Jews."

6. THE JUDICIARY

Judicial authority is vested in Courts of Law. Judges are appointed by the Minister of Justice, but the appointment of Supreme Court judges must be confirmed by the Knesset.

The Courts are: —

- (a) The Supreme Court, which sits in Jerusalem, consists of a President and six judges. This Court can also sit as a High Court of Justice.
- (b) Three District Courts (Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa).
- (c) Sixteen Magistrates' Courts.
- (d) Religious Courts of the Jewish, Moslem and Christian communities which exercise jurisdiction in certain matters of personal status.

FINANCE

NATIONAL INCOME

Israel's National Income for the year 1950 amounted to an estimated IL.334,000,000 distributed as follows: —

Agriculture	IL. 32,100,000
Industry	82,200,000
Trade and Finance	59,400,000
Building	40,000,000
Transport and Communications	20,900,000
Miscellaneous Services and Professions	99,400,000

The estimated National Income for 1951 is IL.470,000,000.

BUDGET

ORDINARY BUDGET

Israel's fiscal year runs from 1st April to 31st March. The Revenue and Expenditure Budget for the year 1952/1953 amounts to IL.168,450,000.

ESTIMATED REVENUE

Income Tax	IL. 47,000,000
Customs	19,000,000
Fuel	11,000,000
Excise	
Tobacco	13,000,000
Drinks	8,000,000
Luxury and Purchase Tax	22,000,000
Property Tax	
Urban	2,400,000
Rural	350,000
Revenue Stamps (Entertainment—2,000,000; others—1,000,000)	3,000,000
License Fees	5,000,000
Services	
Land Registry	2,750,000
Miscellaneous	3,000,000
Collections on loans and Government property	6,500,000
Land Betterment Tax	2,000,000
Inheritance Tax	300,000
Miscellaneous	500,000
Total	IL.145,800,000
Income for subsidies on essentials	IL. 2,500,000
Collections o/a agreement with Britain	550,000
Compulsory War Risk Insurance Fund	170,000
Development Authority	80,000
Total	IL. 3,300,000
Communications Ministry, Posts, Telegraph, Telephone and Radio	IL. 10,185,000
Ports, Lighthouses and Airports	5,985,000
Railways	3,180,000
Total	IL. 19,350,000
GRAND TOTAL	IL.168,450,000

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE

President's Office	IL. 36,000
Knesset	564,000
Ministers	42,000
Prime Minister's Office	1,547,500
Finance Ministry	3,310,000
Defense Ministry	45,000,000
Health Ministry	7,770,000
Religious Affairs Ministry	1,097,000
Foreign Affairs Ministry	2,213,000
Education and Culture Ministry	11,754,500
Agriculture and Development Ministry	2,328,000
Commerce and Industry Ministry	3,715,000
Police Ministry	7,395,000
Justice Ministry	1,230,000
Social Welfare Ministry	4,335,000
Labor Ministry	4,640,000
Interior Ministry	1,025,000
Interior Ministry for local authorities	3,400,000
Government Comptroller's Office	388,000
Compensation and Rehabilitation of War Sufferers	1,800,000
Debts and Interest	6,000,000
General Reserve	2,110,000
Total	IL.111,700,000
Special Budgets (Security Budget, Contribution to Development Budget, Special Reserve Budget)	IL.34,100,000
Total	IL.145,800,000
Subsidies for essential commodities	IL. 2,500,000
Payment o/a Agreement with Britain	550,000
Compulsory War Risk Insurance	170,000
Development Authority expenditures	80,000
Total	IL. 3,300,000

Communications Ministry	
Head Office and departments	IL. 930,000
Posts, Telegraph, Telephone and Radio	7,588,000
Ports, Lighthouses and Airports	4,202,000
Railways	4,630,000
Reserves (including back wages)	2,000,000

Total IL. 19,350,000

GRAND TOTAL IL. 168,450,000

SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

In addition to the ordinary Revenue and Expenditure Budget, there is a Special Development Budget. The following is the Development Budget for 1951/1952*:

The funds for this Development Budget are derived as follows: —

- IL.30,000,000 from the Independence Bond Issue
- IL.12,250,000 from the United States Export-Import Bank Loan
- IL.10,000,000 from Government Land Notes
- IL.10,000,000 from internal loans
- IL.18,000,000 from U.S. Grant-in-Aid
- IL. 4,750,000 from Repayments on account of previous Development Budgets.

The Development Budget is allocated as follows: —

Housing	IL.15,400,000
Loans to Local Authorities and Public Companies	5,500,000
Buildings for Medical Institutions, Schools and Government Institutions	4,000,000
Public Works	6,500,000
Encouragement of the Tourist Trade	1,250,000
Agriculture	24,500,000
Loans for various Industrial Development Purposes	17,100,000
Communications	6,750,000
Miscellaneous, including Negev Development and Jerusalem Development	2,250,000
General Reserves	1,750,000

IL.85,000,000

*At the time of printing, the 1952/1953 Development Budget had not yet been passed.

TAXATION

The revenue for the Ordinary Budget is derived from direct and indirect taxation. In addition to Income Tax, the Government levies the following direct taxes:—

Property Tax	Luxury Tax
Company Tax	Land Registration Tax
Land Betterment Tax	Stamp Tax
Inheritance Tax	

INCOME TAX

In December 1951 the Government proposed a new schedule of income taxes. The following is the table of the proposed schedule in comparison with the existing one:

Total Income	TABLE OF PROPOSED INCOME TAX									
	Single		Married No Children		Married One Child		Married Two Children		Married Three Children	
	Old IL.	New IL.	Old IL.	New IL.	Old IL.	New IL.	Old IL.	New IL.	Old IL.	New IL.
600	32	12	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
900	92	90	63	45	39	—	25	—	—	—
1000	118	128	87	75	63	22	36	—	16	—
1100	158	165	111	105	87	52	57	12	29	—
1200	198	203	146	135	111	82	81	42	45	—
1300	238	248	181	173	146	120	105	80	69	—
1400	291	293	216	210	181	158	137	118	93	38
1500	343	338	261	248	216	195	172	155	120	75
1600	396	388	306	293	261	240	207	200	155	120
1700	466	438	351	338	306	285	250	245	190	165
1800	536	488	421	383	351	330	295	290	227	210
1900	611	538	496	433	426	380	340	340	272	260
2000	686	588	571	483	501	430	407	390	317	310
2100	761	643	646	538	576	485	482	445	370	365
2500	1121	863	1006	758	936	705	842	665	730	585
3100	1603	1198	1511	1093	1451	1040	1363	1000	1258	920
4100	2403	1803	2311	1698	2251	1645	2163	1065	2058	1525
5100	3203	2458	3111	2353	3051	2300	2963	2260	2858	2180
6100	4003	3163	3911	3058	3851	3005	3763	2965	3658	2885
7100	4303	3918	4711	3813	4651	3760	4563	3720	4458	3640
8100	5603	4718	5511	4613	5451	4560	5363	4520	5258	4440
10100	7203	6318	7111	6213	7051	6160	6963	6120	6858	6040

NOTE I. This table takes into account an expenditure of IL.150 for insurance, provident savings, sick fund, medical expenses, etc., of which 40% (IL.60) is deductible from the tax.

NOTE II. Five percent may be deducted from tax of workers whose payments are made at the source.

BANKS

	Total Current Accounts and Deposits	Discounts and Advances
31.12.1947	IL. 61,600,000	IL. 32,600,000
31.12.1951	IL. 173,352,000	IL. 122,104,000

There are 28 commercial banks operating in Israel of which 24 are registered locally. The others are foreign companies.

The Bank Leumi le-Israel, B.M., is the leading commercial bank as well as the Bank of Issue for Israel currency and the sole Banker and Financial Agent of the Government.

The currency is issued by a special Issue Department of the Bank which is completely separate from the Bank's normal banking business, and its operations are solely for Government accounts.

Government loans are administered by another special department of the Bank Leumi le-Israel, B.M.

In addition to the commercial banks, there are 92 Cooperative Credit Societies operating in Israel. On December 31st, 1951, their total deposits amounted to IL.30,524,000 and their outstanding discounts and advances totalled IL.25,562,000. At the end of 1947 the total deposits of the Co-operative Credit Societies amounted to IL.11,300,000.

CURRENCY IN CIRCULATION

	Government Land Bonds	Treasury Bills	Foreign Exchange Balances	Total Bank Notes in Circulation
27.12.1951	77,136,000	20,410,000	IL. 2,761,738	IL. 100,307,738

FOREIGN TRADE — IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

IMPORTS

1950	1951
IL. 102,604,442	IL. 105,342,358

ISRAEL IMPORTS CAME FROM: —

COUNTRY	1950	1951
United States	36.7%	31.8%
United Kingdom	8.8%	10.1%
France	2.2%	5.0%
South Africa	4.0%	4.1%
Italy	5.4%	4.0%
Belgium	2.4%	4.0%
Canada	4.2%	2.8%
Netherlands	2.0%	2.6%
Austria	1.6%	2.5%
Switzerland	1.6%	2.5%
Germany	1.3%	1.6%
Argentina	1.1%	1.5%
Denmark	1.4%	1.4%
West Indies	3.2%	1.2%
Sweden	1.6%	1.0%
Philippines	0.8%	0.9%
Cyprus	1.0%	0.8%
Poland	2.5%	0.8%
Czechoslovakia	0.9%	0.8%
Iran	0.3%	0.6%
Rumania	0.9%	0.5%
Norway	0.7%	0.5%
Iceland	0.2%	0.5%
Other countries	15.2%	18.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

COMPARATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF IMPORTS

	1950	1951
CONSUMERS' GOODS		
Food	12.8%	12.3%
OTHER CONSUMERS' GOODS:		4.1%
1. Durable Goods (furniture, domestic electrical appliances, etc.)	4.4%	4.1%
2. Non-Durable Goods (clothing, shoes, etc.)	9.0%	9.3%
	26.2%	25.7%
PRODUCERS' GOODS		
INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS:		
For Food Industries	7.7%	7.6%
For Other Industries	18.5%	23.0%
	26.2%	30.6%
AGRICULTURAL RAW MATERIALS:		
Fodder	3.7%	4.2%
Others	2.0%	2.1%
	5.7%	6.3%
CAPITAL GOODS		
Industrial Equipment	8.3%	9.3%
Agricultural Equipment	9.2%	6.0%
Other Equipment	0.9%	1.0%
Building Materials	8.1%	6.8%
Means of Transport (vehicles, etc.)	7.9%	5.0%
	34.4%	28.1%
FUEL	7.5%	9.3%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%

EXPORTS

	1950	1951
EXPORTS	IL. 12,552,415	IL. 15,983,483
RE-EXPORTS	IL. 609,797	IL. 736,582

THESE EXPORTS CONSISTED OF: —

	1950	1951
Citrus fruits	48.2%	35.9%
Diamonds (cut and polished)	25.1%	26.1%
Textiles and Apparel	11.0%	14.0%
Fruit juices	4.0%	7.1%
Artificial teeth	2.5%	1.7%
Liquors and Wines, Chocolates and Sweets	2.3%	1.5%
Drugs and Medicines	0.7%	1.5%
Essential oils	0.4%	1.0%
Motor cars	—	3.6%
Other products	5.8%	7.6%
	100.0%	100.0%

ISRAEL EXPORTS WENT TO: —

COUNTRY	1950	1951
United Kingdom	31.1%	32.6%
United States	23.7%	22.9%
Finland	3.5%	7.0%
Denmark	8.3%	6.0%
Netherlands	3.6%	3.7%
Switzerland	3.0%	3.5%
Belgium	2.8%	3.1%
Norway	2.4%	2.8%
Poland	3.7%	2.6%
Sweden	4.5%	2.3%
Canada	1.3%	1.9%
Austria	1.3%	1.5%
France	0.3%	1.2%
Italy	0.8%	0.9%
Rumania	0.9%	0.8%
Iceland	—	0.8%
Bulgaria	0.4%	0.7%
Australia and New Zealand	0.4%	0.6%
Other countries	8.0%	5.1%
	100.0%	100.0%

An adverse trade balance is a phenomenon experienced by every country during a period of pioneering and development. Thus, for instance, the United States of America had an adverse trade balance until the late 80's of the last century, while such countries as the Argentine,

Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Canada had adverse trade balances well into the 1920's, and even the 1930's. On the other hand, while the trade balance of Jewish Palestine during the Mandate was always adverse, many factors tended to equalize this balance of trade: import of capital, import without payment, tourist trade, Fund drives, immigrants' effects and assets, etc. The same factors still apply.

ISRAEL'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, 1951
(Provisional data)

I. —		
1. Imports of goods (cif)	. . . . .	IL.116,000,000
2. Invisible imports	. . . . .	11,000,000
		<hr/>
		IL.127,000,000
II. —		
1. Exports of goods (fob)	. . . . .	IL. 17,000,000
2. Cash income from National Funds, Public Institutions and Independence Bonds	. . . . .	28,900,000
3. Capital imports in form of goods, loans and private transfers	. . . . .	79,000,000
4. Miscellaneous	. . . . .	2,100,000
		<hr/>
		IL.127,000,000

CAPITAL TRANSFER IN THE FORM OF
"IMPORTS WITHOUT PAYMENT"

(January to November 1951)

(Included in the "Balance of Payments," II. 3 above)

On account of capital investment proper	. . . . .	IL.11,700,000
On account of personal effects of immigrants	. . . . .	2,100,000
On account of gifts	. . . . .	8,900,000
		<hr/>
TOTAL	. . . . .	IL.22,700,000

ENCOURAGEMENT OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT

A Law for the Encouragement of Capital Investment was passed by the Knesset on 29th March, 1950.

Under this Law, substantial facilities and privileges are granted to both foreign and local investors. These include relief from property tax in the first five years after an enterprise has been established — in some cases up to ten years, an increased allowance for depreciation, and considerable reductions in the rates of income tax both for companies and individuals. The Law also provides that a non-resident foreign investor may transfer, in the same currency in which his investment was originally made, up to 10% of his investment annually. The Treasury may permit the 10% to be exceeded in the case of export enterprises, in proportion to additional foreign currency earned by such enterprises.

An "Investment Center" was established under the provisions of this Law in order to:

- (a) furnish information on problems connected with the investment of capital in Israel;
- (b) decide whether any undertaking in which it is proposed to invest is an "approved undertaking" within the meaning of the Law and therefore entitled to the special benefits provided by the Law;
- (c) maintain contact between investors and Government Departments on all matters connected with capital investment.

INVESTMENT CENTER

The Investment Center began its activities in May, 1950. Up to 31st December, 1951, 651 enterprises had been approved and 569 recommended.

Approved undertakings are those eligible for the full benefits of the Law for the Encouragement of Capital Investment. Recommended undertakings are enterprises not eligible for all such benefits but which are recommended for special facilities.

The total capital to be invested in all these undertakings is IL.96,400,000, of which IL.48,500,000 represents capital brought from abroad, including capital in the process of transfer. By 31st December, 1951, 179 approved enterprises with IL.20,200,000 capital were already in operation; 216 approved enterprises were in various stages of construction and IL.30,800,000 will be invested in them. Many of the 569 recommended enterprises with about IL.12,400,000 capital were either already in operation or at an advanced stage of construction.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

INDUSTRY

A wide range of products is manufactured, processed or finished in Israel:

- (a) * *Textiles* — Spinning and weaving (wool, cotton, silk), finishing and dyeing, clothing articles (including knitwear, interlock, fashion-wear, etc.), rayon.
- (b) * *Leather* — Tanning, footwear, fancy goods, etc.
- (c) * *Plastics* — Bakelite products, nylon, clothing wear, including ladies' stockings.
- (d) * *Foodstuffs* — Milling, canning, fruit juices and concentrates, jams, chocolate, biscuits, olive oil.
- (e) * *Chemicals* — Pharmaceutical products, paints and dyes, waxes, soap.
- (f) * *Wines and Tobacco* — Wines, liquors, brandies, cigarettes, tobacco.
- (g) *Building Materials* — Building hardware (nails, screws, locks, doorknobs, etc.), cement, concrete blocks, tiles, bricks, plywood, wire.
- (h) *Sanitary Equipment* — Pipes, baths, porcelain fittings, etc.
- (i) *Glass and Ceramics*.
- (j) *Furniture and Household Goods*.
- (k) *Tools and Machinery* — Precision instruments, machinery assembly, ice boxes, spare parts, bus body building .
- (l) * *Diamonds* — Cutting and polishing.
- (m) * *Handicraft* — Religious articles, metalwork, filigree work, etc.
- (n) * *Printing and Bookbinding*.
- (o) * *Electrical Appliances* — Radios, electrical bulbs, lamps.
- (p) *Refrigerators*.
- (q) * *Automobile Assembly* — (Kaiser-Frazer).
- (r) * *Irrigation Pipes* — prestressed — up to 66 in. diameter.

The products of Israel industry are mainly consumed by the local market. Industries marked * produce partly for export.

THE TOURIST TRADE

TOURISTS VISITING ISRAEL

1950	1951
30,316	47,221

There are Government Tourist Information Centers in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Tiberias, Natanya, Nazareth and Lod (Lydda) Airport. Israel National Tourist Centers are maintained in New York and Paris.

The Israel Touring Club is affiliated to the International Touring Club organizations.

INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE ORGANIZATIONS

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

There are three Chambers of Commerce: —

1. The Jerusalem Chamber of Commerce with 400 members;
2. The Tel Aviv-Jaffa Chamber of Commerce with 1,400 members;
3. The Haifa Chamber of Commerce & Industry with 650 members.

Their activities are coordinated through a "Joint Representation of the Chamber of Commerce."

The Tel Aviv-Jaffa Chamber of Commerce publishes a monthly journal in Hebrew and English called "Commerce."

The Haifa Chamber of Commerce and Industry issues a monthly news circular and a yearbook.

MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF ISRAEL

The Association has about 1,500 members. It is organized in the following industrial sections:

Textiles	Cosmetics
Metal and Electrical Goods	Building Materials
Foodstuffs	Furniture
Tobacco and Cigarettes	Stationery and Office Equipment
Chemicals	Diamonds
Pharmaceuticals	Union of Israel Fashion Industries

The Association maintains a permanent Exhibition of Israel Industrial Products and an industrial library. It publishes a monthly review of industry and economics, "Hatassiya."

WORKSHOP OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

This Association has a membership of 13,000 workshops comprising 40,000-50,000 workers. It is organized in three sections: —

1. Artisans in self-owned workshops: watchmakers, shoemakers, carpenters, smiths, plumbers, etc.;
2. Services: laundries, cleaners and dyers, etc.;
3. Small industrial workshops employing from 3 to 6 workers.

The Workshop Owners' Association publishes a monthly paper for internal circulation, "Ha-Ooman."

ORGANIZATION OF LABOR

There are six labor organizations in Israel: —

1. The Histadrut Haklalit Shel Haovdim Haivrim B'erezt Israel (General Federation of Jewish Labor in Israel);
2. The Hapoel Hamizrahi Organization (Mizrahi Workers' Organization);
3. The Paolei Agudat Israel Organization (Agudat Israel Workers' Organization);
4. The Histadrut Haovdim Haleumit (National Workers' Organization);
5. The Israel Labor League;
6. The Arab Trade Union Congress.

1. THE HISTADRUT HAKLALIT SHEI HAQVDIM HAIVRIM B'ERETZ ISRAEL (General Federation of Jewish Labor in Israel)

The Histadrut, as it is generally known, was founded in 1920. Its 435,000 members include 280,000 members in urban areas and over 130,000 members in rural areas.

The Histadrut maintains a separate organization for juvenile workers up to the age of 18 (Hanoar Haoved), with 22,000 members. The Histadrut's Women Workers' Council (Moetzet Hapoalot) represents all the women members of the Histadrut — women workers and wives of members working in their own households. The Agricultural Center (Merkaz Haklai) represents the members of collective and cooperative settlements, as well as hired agricultural workers.

Membership in the Histadrut is individual and membership dues are levied on a progressive scale based on earnings. The dues include the member's contribution for sickness insurance for himself and his family with Kupat Holim.

In addition to normal trade union activities, the Histadrut maintains extensive social, cultural and educational institutions, and has created large cooperative industrial and commercial enterprises of its own.

Social Services

The Histadrut social services and mutual aid institutions include its sick fund (Kupat Holim) which is the largest non-Governmental medical organization in the country, in which over 50% of the population is voluntarily insured. Kupat Holim maintains 20 hospitals and convalescent homes, and 900 clinics and dispensaries.

The Women Workers' Council assists new immigrant women to acquire a trade, runs girls' farm schools, and through its affiliated Working Mothers' Association, maintains hundreds of day nurseries, kindergartens and after-school clubs for children of working mothers.

Economic Affiliations and Enterprises

Most cooperative enterprises in Israel — agricultural, industrial and transport — are affiliated to the Histadrut. These include almost all the collective and cooperative agricultural settlements, and the major urban and inter-urban passenger and freight transport cooperatives.

All economic enterprises affiliated directly or indirectly to the Histadrut are controlled through the General Cooperative Association of Jewish Workers (Hevrat Ovdim). These enterprises include: —

Hamashbir Hamerkazi (Central Wholesale Supply Cooperative), which acts as supplier for the cooperative and collective agricultural settlements and the urban and suburban consumers' cooperatives. In 1951, Hamashbir Hamerkazi had a turnover of about IL.25,000,000. It is whole or part owner of a series of industrial enterprises including: —

"Shemen" Oil and Soap Works	Fertilizers and Chemicals, Ltd.
"Hamashbir" Flour Mills	"Minal" Shoe Factory
"Hatzamar" Wool Processing	"Hamegaper" Rubber Products, etc.

Tnuva (Central Agricultural Marketing Cooperative), which markets 70% of all Israel's agricultural produce excluding citrus. The citrus exports of the Cooperative Sector are marketed by Tnuva (Export), Ltd., and Yakhin, Ltd.

Solel Boneh, the largest building contracting company in Israel which is whole or part owner of a series of industrial plants primarily connected with building, e.g., "Nesher" Cement Works, Vulcan Foundries, Phoenicia Glass Works, Lime and Stone Production Company, "Herut" Ltd. (water

and sanitary installations), Kharsa Ceramic Works, etc. Solel Boneh's total turnover in 1950 was some IL.45,000,000. It employed 40,000 to 45,000 workers throughout 1951.

Workers' Bank, Limited

"Hasneh" Insurance Company

"Bitzur" Limited, Credit Institutions

"Nir" Limited, Agricultural Credit Institution

"Shikun" Limited, Building and Housing Company

"Yakhin" Limited, Agricultural Contracting Cooperative

"Hakal" Limited, Agricultural Contracting Company

and many others.

The Histadrut also holds shares in Ampal (The American Palestine Trading Corporation), "Mekorot" Limited, and the "Zim" Shipping Company, Limited.

Cultural and Educational Activities JEWISH

The Histadrut publishes two daily papers — *Davar*, the official organ of the Histadrut, and *Omer*, which is printed in vowelled Hebrew for new immigrants, and a number of subsidiary periodicals. These include a children's paper (*Davar Leyeladim*), a women's journal, a weekly in Arabic, an illustrated weekly (*Dvar Hasbavua*) and journals for immigrants in various languages.

Other Histadrut activities include the Am Oved Publishing Company, the Ohel Theatre, and the Hapoel Sports Association. The Histadrut also maintains libraries, organizes lectures and concerts for workers, and has a traveling film library which serves the agricultural settlements and outlying villages.

Arab Workers

The Histadrut has a department for Arab affairs which has set up an economic section to assist Arab workers and peasants to form cooperatives, both for production and for the marketing of agricultural produce. This department works in close cooperation with the Israel Labor League.

2. THE HAPOEL HAMIZRAHI ORGANIZATION

(Mizrahi Workers' Organization)

The Hapoel Hamizrahi Organization has a membership of 45,000. Its members are insured with the Histadrut's Sick Fund, Kupat Holim. Hapoel Hamizrahi has 63 agricultural settlements (9 Kibbutzim of the Kibbutz Hadati Movement, 54 Moshvei Ovdim and new immigrant vil-

lages) and maintains central organizations for settlement, education, absorption of new immigrants, etc. These settlements are members of the Agricultural Workers' Center. They market their products through the Histadrut's Tnuva and buy their supplies through the Histadrut's Hamashbir Hamerkazi. The Hapoel Hamizrahi Organization also cooperates with the Histadrut on trade union matters.

3. THE POALEI AGUDAT ISRAEL ORGANIZATION (*Agudat Israel Workers' Organization*)

The Poalei Agudat Israel Organization has a membership of 18,000 and its members are insured with the Histadrut's Sick Fund, Kupat Holim.

The twelve Poalei Agudat Israel settlements (3 Kibbutzim, 8 Moshvei Ovdim and 1 Meshek Shitufi) are organized within the Agricultural Workers' Center and use the Histadrut Central Marketing and Purchasing Cooperatives, Tnuva and Hamashbir Hamerkazi, for the marketing of their products and the purchase of their supplies.

The Organization maintains its own central organization for settlement, education, etc.

4. THE HISTADRUT HAOVDIM HALEUMIT (*National Workers' Organization*)

The Histadrut Haovdim Haleumit was founded by the Revisionist Organization. It has 18,000 members. Its members use the National Workers' Sick Fund. It participates in the General Labor Exchange. The members of ten agricultural settlements (3 Moshavim Shitufiim and 7 Moshvei Ovdim), established by the Betar and Herut Movements, are members of the Histadrut Haovdim Haleumit. These settlements market most of their produce through Tenne (see page 37), and partly through the Histadrut's Tnuva.

5. THE ISRAEL LABOR LEAGUE

The Israel Labor League is an Arab Trade Union organization with 11,000 members. It is affiliated with the Histadrut (General Federation of Jewish Labor in Israel) and all its subsidiary organizations.

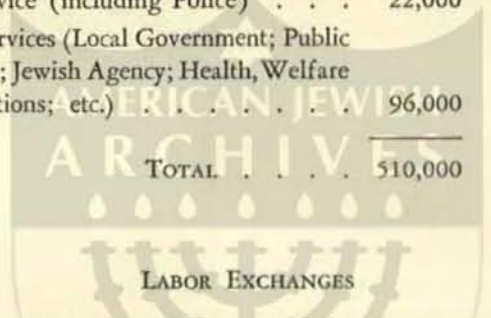
6. THE ARAB WORKERS' CONGRESS

The Arab Workers' Congress is an Arab Trade Union organization with about 2,500 members, many of whom are members of the Israel Communist Party. It was founded in 1945. Its head office is in Nazareth, where it maintains a Labor Exchange. It maintains some cooperative stores and workshops, but has no general scheme of sick insurance for all its members.

EMPLOYMENT

On 31st December, 1951, there were an estimated 510,000 wage-earners in Israel distributed as follows:

Agriculture	70,000	14%
Industry	119,000	23%
Building	50,000	10%
Transport and Communications (excluding Postal Services, Railways and Ports)	28,000	5%
Commerce and Finance	85,000	17%
Free Professions	40,000	8%
Civil Service (including Police)	22,000	4%
Public Services (Local Government; Public Works; Jewish Agency; Health, Welfare Institutions; etc.)	96,000	19%
TOTAL	510,000	100%



There are 60 labor exchanges, including 20 branch labor exchanges, in the towns, villages, and new immigrant centers in Israel.

The labor exchanges are under the supervision of the Ministry of Labor, which provides two-thirds of their budget. The direct management of the exchanges is in the hands of the Central Office of Labor Exchanges composed of the representatives of the following four labor organizations: —

- General Federation of Jewish Labor in Israel (Histadrut);
- Hapoel Hamizrahi Organization;
- Paolei Agudat Israel Organization;
- Histadrut Haovdim Haleumit (National Workers' Organization).

The proportionate representation of these organizations in the different labor exchanges varies in accordance with the strength of the organizations in the areas concerned. The Histadrut (General Federation of Jewish Labor in Israel) representation on labor exchanges averages approximately 80%. One-third of the budget of labor exchanges is provided by the labor organizations.

APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT AT ALL LABOR EXCHANGES DURING 1951

	Average Number of Applicants Calling Daily	Number of Applicants Registered for Work	Duration of Unemployment Period			
			Up to 6 days	7 to 12 days	13 to 18 days	19 days and over
31 MARCH	4,980	25,328	18,125	4,352	1,527	1,324
30 JUNE	5,765	26,235	18,566	5,456	1,499	714
30 SEPT.	5,384	23,689	16,105	4,876	1,740	968
31 DEC.	7,682	28,129	12,714	7,077	4,933	3,405

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES
AGRICULTURE

AREA UNDER CULTIVATION

	1949/50	1950/51
Total area	2,500,000 dunams	3,500,000 dunams
Of which under irrigation	350,000 "	420,000 "

The cultivated area includes 39,000 dunams of fallow land in the Negev which have been ploughed and will be sown in 1952.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE CULTIVATED AREAS

	1949/50	1950/51
Field crops (unirrigated)	1,775,000 dunams	2,650,000 dunams
Fodder and other crops (irrigated)	81,000 "	120,000 "
Vegetables and potatoes	131,000 "	175,000 "
Citrus groves and orchards	400,000 "	430,000 "
Fish ponds	22,000 "	25,000 "
Miscellaneous	91,000 "	100,000 "

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

	1949/50	1950/51
Vegetables and potatoes	160,800 tons	180,000 tons
Grain crops	85,300 "	47,500 "
Beans	2,900 "	900 "
Green fodder	495,400 "	600,000 "
Hay	53,200 "	55,000 "
Ground nuts, sunflowers	4,150 "	3,300 "
Tobacco	1,485 "	1,900 "
Grapes	16,850 "	14,500 "
Other fruits (excluding citrus)	13,360 "	14,000 "
Olives	3,800 "	3,000 "
Eggs	330,000,000	390,000,000
Milk	105,100,000 liters	117,000,000 liters
Slaughtered poultry	7,375 tons	7,000 tons
Fish (local lake and sea fisheries and fish breeding)	6,100 "	7,250 "
Fishing in distant waters	—	1,551 "

CITRUS

	1949/50	1950/51
Export	4,221,000 boxes*	4,185,000 boxes
Local marketing, industry	2,029,000 "	2,550,000 "
" " eating purposes		1,524,000 "
Additional consumption (not marketed)	approximately	300,000 "
Total production		8,559,000 "
Area under citrus groves	125,000 dunams	135,000 dunams

* A standard box contains from 40 to 41 kgs. weight of oranges.

LIVESTOCK

	1949/50	1950/51
Dairy stock (Milch cows and heifers)		
Thoroughbred stock	47,500	57,500
Local stock	13,000	15,000
Sheep and goats	137,000	140,000
Draught animals (oxen, horses, mules, donkeys, camels)	35,000	37,000
Laying hens	3,000,000	2,700,000

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

	TRACTORS	COMBINES	DRILLS	BALES
1950	3,800	940	640	550
1951	4,500	950	750	550

In addition Israel farmers use: —

- 1,400 moldboard ploughs,
- 700 cultivators,
- 1,100 harrows,
- 900 fertilizer distributors,
- 500 manure spreaders.

AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

There are three central Agricultural Organizations in Israel: —

1. THE AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' CENTER affiliated to the Histadrut (General Federation of Jewish Labor in Israel) represents collective and cooperative settlements with a total population of approximately 150,000 souls.
(For marketing, supply and other organizations used by the Agricultural Workers' Center, see under "Organization of Labor," page 31).
2. THE AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL represents three distinct elements: —
 - (a) The cooperative villages of smallholders which are not affiliated to the Histadrut;
 - (b) Agricultural purchasing and marketing cooperatives in various moshavot;
 - (c) Individual smallholder farmers.

It represents 3,000 smallholdings and its members farm some 200,000 dunams.

Its member organizations are: —

- (i) *Aspaka*, a central purchasing institution for fodder, fertilizer, etc.;
- (ii) *Tenne*, a central marketing cooperative;
- (iii) *Bahan*, a central auditing and control organization.

The Agricultural Council publishes a monthly journal, "Hameshek Hahaklai."

3. FARMERS' FEDERATION: The 6,000 members of the Farmers' Federation are citrus planters and owners of larger farms. Together they cultivate 500,000 dunams of land, including 70,000 dunams of citrus groves. A "Farmer Company" (Hevrat Haikarim) established by the Federation as a holding company holds shares in the following enterprises: —

(a) "Amir," marketing and supply company;

(b) Farmers' Mortgage Corporation;

(c) "Sa-Sa" Transport Company.

The Farmers' Federation owns and maintains the Pardess Hanna Agricultural High School.

RURAL SETTLEMENT

On 31st December, 1951, there were 695 rural settlements throughout the country. There are seven specific types of settlement, and the pattern of some of these types reflects various social philosophies and the need to meet the special conditions of the country.

TYPE OF SETTLEMENT	NUMBER	POPULATION
1. Moshavot	36	135,172
2. Kibbutzim	217	68,156
3. Moshvei Ovdim	190	60,810
4. Moshavim	42	24,974
5. Moshavim Shitufim	28	4,024
6. Settlements of new immigrants	81	89,590
7. Arab villages	101	140,000

1. **MOSHAVOT** (singular, Moshava) are ordinary rural villages based on private land ownership and private enterprise. Included in this group are several large villages like Herzlia (population 13,000, approx.) and Nes Tziona (population 6,000), which are, in fact, small townlets but which remain predominantly agricultural in character. (Rishon-le-Zion, Hadera and Rehovot are not included because they have attained municipal status). The population of the villages of this group is rising rapidly owing to the establishment of new immigrant centers (Maabarot) in the village area.
2. **KIBBUTZIM** or **KVUTZOT** (singular, Kibbutz or Kvutza) are collective settlements. All property is collectively owned and work in the settlement organized on a collective basis. The members give their labor to the common stock and receive from the settlement the satisfaction of their needs, in accordance with the financial means of the settlement. Domestic and social services are provided communally. There is a central dining room and kitchen, communal kindergartens and children's quarters, communal social and cultural halls and central stores. Individual living quarters give the members personal privacy. The kibbutz is governed by the General Assembly of all its members. The kibbutz is predominantly agricultural but considerable industrial projects are operated in many kibbutzim. The population of the kibbutz

ranges from 60 in the smallest to approximately 2,000 in the largest. The oldest collective settlement in Israel, Degania, was founded in 1909.

3. **MOSHVEI OVDIM** (singular, Moshav Ovdim) are workers' cooperative smallholders' settlements. These settlements are founded on the principles of mutual aid and equality of opportunity between the members, all farms being equal in size; hired labor is prohibited. Each individual farm is worked by the member and his family, but the settlement is completely cooperative in that all the produce of the farms is sold through a central cooperative and all purchases for the requirements of the village are undertaken cooperatively. Certain types of agricultural equipment are owned by the settlement as a whole and operated cooperatively. The supreme authority of the moshav is the General Assembly consisting of all members. The general administration of the moshav is a village council elected by the Assembly. The moshav is a closed community. No transfer of a farm or acceptance of a new member is possible without the agreement of the village council. The moshav by its nature is purely agricultural, and its population ranges from 100 to 1,000. The first settlement of this type set up in the country was Nahalal (established 1921).
4. **MOSHAVIM** (singular, Moshav) are smallholders' settlements, in many ways resembling the Moshvei Ovdim but without the same rigid ideological basis — hired labor, for example, is permitted. The first settlement of this type was set up by immigrants from Germany in 1933 (Ramat Hashavim) and the villages of this group are normally called "middle class" settlements to differentiate them from the Moshvei Ovdim of the Labor Movement. There is no completely standard type within this group. In some cases, they are established on privately-owned land, in others on nationally-owned land. Most of these settlements are organized in the Agricultural Council (see page 37). These settlements are predominantly agricultural in character and the largest, Ramat Hashavim, has a population of 500 souls.
5. **MOSHAVIM SHITUFIM** (singular, Moshav Shitufi) are settlements based on collective ownership of property and collective work as in the kibbutz. Each family, however, as in the Moshav Ovdim, has its own house and is responsible for its own domestic services, such as feeding, laundry and care of the children. Payment for work is based on the same principle as in the kibbutz — "to each according to his needs and from each according to his capacities" — each family, for example, receiving money in accordance with the size of the family. The Moshav Shitufi, like the kibbutz, tends to develop industrial enterprises alongside its agricultural activities. The population of the Moshav

Shitufi ranges in size from 60 to 300. The first Moshav Shitufi was Kfar Hittin, established in 1936.

6. SETTLEMENTS OF NEW IMMIGRANTS (MAABAROT) (singular Maabarah, meaning "transition"). The independent Maabarot and work villages established for the absorption of new immigrants are intended to become permanent agricultural settlements, and will, in time, conform to the pattern of one or another type of established settlement. In addition, more than 100 Maabarot with over 65,000 inhabitants have been set up in the vicinity of established urban and rural centers and are considered administratively as belonging to these centers, although in some cases they will ultimately achieve administrative independence.

COMMUNICATIONS

RAILWAYS

The State-owned Israel railways carried:—

	1950	1951
Passengers	1,529,970	1,716,000
Freight in ton-kilometers	70,867,000	103,139,000

On 31st December, 1951, 318 kilometers of main railroad lines were in operation.

In addition there are 217 kilometers of branch and extension lines.

ROAD TRANSPORT

LENGTH OF ISRAEL ROADS

Length of paved roads on 31st December, 1951, 2,462 kilometers.

Freight carried on roads during 1950, 410,000,000 ton-kilometers.

Freight carried on roads during 1951, 510,000,000 ton-kilometers.

BUS LINES

On 31st December, 1951, three Bus Cooperatives operated 1,500 buses throughout Israel.

		1950	1951
Inter-Urban and Suburban Bus Lines	Passengers	109,698,375	162,000,000
	Kilometrage	48,176,848	63,582,923
Urban Bus Lines	Passengers	152,776,864	185,000,000
	Kilometrage	17,770,045	18,762,000

INTER-URBAN TAXI LINES CARRIED: —

	1950	1951
Passengers	1,256,347	1,504,108
Kilometrage	20,542,459	21,235,793

Five Inter-Urban Taxi Companies operated 232 taxis.

PORTS AND SHIPPING

ISRAEL MERCHANT MARINE — VESSELS REGISTERED IN ISRAEL
(excluding such vessels as tugs, fishing smacks, etc.)

1ST JULY, 1948	31ST DECEMBER, 1951
10 vessels	29 vessels
21,000 gross tons	102,882 gross tons

The Merchant Marine includes four passenger ships, totalling 16,155 gross registered tons as well as four fruit carriers especially built for the citrus trade and totalling 9,215 gross registered tons. The 21 general cargo vessels displace 77,512 gross registered tons.

TRAFFIC IN ISRAEL PORTS

	1950	1951
Ships anchoring in Israel ports	1,552	1,392
Net tonnage registered	2,404,497	2,534,209
Freight unloaded (tons)	1,435,413	1,591,184
Freight loaded (tons)	213,141	209,234
Passengers arrived	134,562	93,691
Passengers departed	23,292	21,054

AIR SERVICES

Airlines representing the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, South Africa, Holland, Belgium, Luxemburg, Switzerland, Sweden, Philippines and Cyprus have regular scheduled flights via Lod (Lydda). For most of these lines Lod is a terminus.

TRAFFIC ON ISRAEL AIRFIELDS

	1950	1951
Planes landed from abroad	2,272	2,955
Passengers arrived from abroad	82,796	130,200
Passengers departed	33,846	35,838
Freight and mail unloaded	1,577,385 kgs.	2,174,278 kgs.
Freight and mail loaded	635,996 kgs.	561,746 kgs.

ISRAEL AIR LINES

EL AL, the Israel National Air Service,

- (a) operates scheduled flights to New York, Paris, London, Vienna, Rome, Zurich, Athens, Nicosia, Johannesburg and Istanbul.
- (b) In 1951, El Al planes carried:
 19,231 passengers, 500,874 kgs. of commercial freight and
 68,441 kgs. of mail.

POSTAL SERVICES

	14 MAY, 1948	31 DEC., 1951
Number of Post Offices	47	67
Number of Post Office Agencies	45	79

There are in addition 8 mobile Post Offices serving outlying districts.

TELEPHONE SERVICES

There are 54 Telephone Exchanges throughout the country.
 Israel has now direct telephone communications with 48 countries,
 as compared with only four on 14th May, 1948.

HEALTH SERVICES AND HOSPITALIZATION

31st December, 1951:

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOSPITALS AND BEDS

	HOSPITALS	BEDS
General Hospitals	45	5009*
Diseases of the Lung Hospitals	13	1645
Mental Hospitals	21	2170
Chronic Diseases Hospitals	5	338**
Rehabilitation Hospitals	2	65 + 165 = 230
Leprosy Hospital	1	50
TOTAL	87	9442

* In addition there are 441 beds for T.B. and 57 for rehabilitation.

** In addition there are 8 beds for rehabilitation.

The above figures do not include hospitals of the Israel Defense Army or of the "Malben" Organization which cares for chronic cases, tuberculosis cases and certain other categories of diseases among new immigrants. "Malben" maintains a total of 3000 beds.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOSPITALS ACCORDING TO REGIONS

	GENERAL HOSPITALS		HOSPITALS OF LUNG DISEASES				MENTAL HOSPITALS		CHRONIC DISEASES		REHABILITATION					LEPROSY HOSPITAL		TOTAL	
	Hospitals	Gen. beds	Hospitals	Beds	Beds in gen. hosp.	Total T. B. beds	Hospitals	Beds	Hospitals	Beds	Hospitals	Beds	Beds in gen. hosp.	Beds in chronic hosp.	Total rehab. beds	Hospitals	Beds	Hospitals	Beds
Jerusalem District	6	734	2	229	92	321	11	718	—	—	1	100	—	—	100	1	50	21	1923
Jaffa and Southern District	6	868	3	319	50	369	2	526	1	120	—	—	32	—	32	—	—	12	1915
Tel Aviv District	16	939	4	413	290	703	6	369	3	158	1	65	16	8	89	—	—	30	3258
Haifa District	11	973	1	50	—	50	1	57	1	60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	1140
Jezreel Valley and Galilee	6	495	3	193	9	202	1	500	—	—	—	—	9	—	9	—	—	10	1206
TOTAL	45	5009	13	1204	441	1645	21	2170	5	338	2	165	57	8	230	1	50	87	9442

DISTRIBUTION OF HOSPITALS ACCORDING TO AGENCY OF MAINTENANCE

	GENERAL HOSPITALS		HOSPITALS OF LUNG DISEASES				MENTAL HOSPITALS		CHRONIC DISEASES		REHABILITATION					LEPROSY HOSPITAL		TOTAL	
	Hospitals	Gen. beds	Hospitals	Beds	Beds in gen. hosp.	Total T. B. beds	Hospitals	Beds	Hospitals	Beds	Hospitals	Beds	Beds in gen. hosp.	Beds in chronic hosp.	Total rehab. beds	Hospitals	Beds	Hospitals	Beds
Government	*14	2270	5	424	340	764	4	1802	—	—	—	—	48	—	48	1	50	24	4214
Local Councils	4	646	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	646
Kupat Holim	7	626	2	229	—	229	2	210	—	—	1	65	—	—	65	—	—	12	1130
Malben	—	—	3	309	—	309	—	—	3	256	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	565
Hadassah	2	385	1	100	92	192	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	577
Anti-T.B. League	—	—	2	142	—	142	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	142
Mission Hospitals	4	362	—	—	9	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	9	—	—	4	380
Other Public Institutions	3	290	—	—	—	—	2	134	—	—	1	100	—	—	100	—	—	6	524
Private Hospitals	11	430	—	—	—	—	13	744	2	82	—	—	8	—	8	—	—	26	1264
TOTAL	45	5009	13	1204	441	1645	21	2170	5	338	2	165	57	8	230	1	50	87	9442

* One of them belongs to the Scottish Mission and is maintained by the Government.

RED SHIELD SOCIETY

The Magen David Adom (Red Shield Society) is the Israel equivalent of the Red Cross Society. By the "Magen David Adom Law of 12th July, 1950," the Society has the status of a national society in accordance with the Geneva Convention and the Charter of the International League of Red Cross Societies. The Magen David Adom Society has 5,000 members.

It maintains: —

- 30 First Aid stations;
- 100 Ambulances;
- 3 Blood Banks (in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa).

EDUCATION

AMERICAN JEWISH LEGISLATION ARCHIVES

A Compulsory Education Law was passed by the Knesset on 12th September, 1949.

This Law:

- (1) Provides free and compulsory education from 5 to 13 years of age inclusive.
- (2) Specifically recognizes the four established school trends:
 - (a) The General Trend;
 - (b) The Labor Trend;
 - (c) The Mizrahi Trend;
 - (d) The Agudat Israel Trend.

The schools of each trend are guided by Supervisory Committees composed of representatives of organizations belonging to that trend and of representatives of the parents of children attending schools of that trend. Inspectors for each trend are appointed by the Ministry of Education and Culture from lists submitted by these Committees. The final supervision and control of all schools, however, lies with the Ministry of Education and Culture.

- (3) Lays down that youths aged between 14 and 18 who have not completed elementary school must attend classes until either they complete the necessary standard or reach the age of 18.
- (4) Lays down that schools in Immigrant Camps are to be of two types, one of which must be religious.

SCHOOL YEAR 1951/1952

TYPES OF SCHOOL	NO. OF SCHOOLS	NO. OF PUPILS	NO. OF TEACHERS
Kindergartens	1,401	59,625	* 1,850
Elementary schools	825	181,093	** 7,247
***Secondary schools	114	15,582	1,553
Vocational schools	39	4,614	451
Agricultural schools	26	4,925	—
Evening classes for working youth	131	7,231	450
Teacher training schools	17	1,875	357
Arab schools (including kindergartens)	103	27,151	708
Schools for backward children	58	3,199	259
Yeshivot and Elementary Talmudei Torah (Schools for the study of Torah and Talmud)	135	7,500	—
TOTAL	2,849	312,795	12,875

* Excludes more than 2,000 assistants.

** About 28% of all teachers in elementary schools are employed on a part-time basis.

*** Includes post-primary continuation classes in agricultural settlements.

DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOLS ACCORDING TO TRENDS (1950-1951)

Trend	Percentage
General	32.7
Labor	37.3
Mizrahi	18.5
Agudat Israel	6.6
Non-affiliated	4.9

CURRICULUM AND ORGANIZATION

The language of instruction in all Jewish schools is Hebrew.

The language of instruction in Israel Government Arab schools is Arabic.

Almost all schools in Israel are coeducational.

Elementary schools comprise 8 years of study.

Secondary schools comprise 4 years of study.

Both the State and local authorities provide scholarships for secondary schools.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The Hebrew University in Jerusalem has five faculties: —

Faculty of Humanities	940	students
Faculty of Science	593	"
Faculty of Medicine	200	"
Faculty of Law	540	"
Faculty of Agriculture	35	"

The Faculty staff of the University numbers 342. There are 36 professors, 28 associate professors and 54 lecturers.

In addition there are 150 research students in the various departments.

The Haifa Technion comprises: —

1. An Engineering School;
2. A Technical High School; and
3. A Nautical School.

The Engineering School has 1050 students and the Technical High School 583 students. The Nautical School has 185 students.

The teaching staff of the Engineering School numbers 145.

The joint teaching staff of the Technical High School and the Nautical School is 60.

The School of Law and Economics in Tel Aviv has 3 faculties: — Law, Economics, and Political Science. An Institute of Accountancy is affiliated with the School.

The enrollment is 460 students.

The faculty staff numbers 48, of whom 24 are permanent lecturers.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

THE ISRAEL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COUNCIL

The Israel Scientific Research Council, attached to the Prime Minister's Office, organizes and coordinates research work in natural sciences and all branches of technology and stimulates and carries out scientific studies calculated to lead to the development of industry and agriculture and the exploitation of the country's natural resources. It acts as adviser to the Government on plans related to natural sciences and technology. Among its committees are: —

- (a) Committee for basic research, with sub-committees dealing with such subjects as minerals and fuel, experimental medicine, subterranean water, and general biology;

- (b) Industrial Research Committee with sub-committees dealing with cytology, problems of citrus and related industries, industrial exploitation of petroleum and meteorological problems; and a
- (c) Building Research Committee, with sub-committees dealing with road construction, housing problems, general building, and the use of materials and methods.

A Department for Scientific Information publishes scientific literature, including a quarterly called "Bulletin of the Research Council of Israel," maintains a library, and generally assists research workers in industry and agriculture.

The Productivity and Production Research Institute, established by the Israel Engineers' and Architects' Association, operates under the auspices of the Research Council.

THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

The Weizmann Institute of Science is situated at Rehovot. The President of the Council is Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of Israel.

The scientific staff of the Institute comprises 55 research scientists and 60 laboratory assistants.

The Institute comprises the following departments:—

- Organic Chemistry;
- Experimental Biology;
- Isotopes;
- Applied Mathematics;
- Biochemistry;
- Polymer Research;
- Optics.

The Institute has the following buildings:—

- The Daniel Sieff Research Institute;
- The Fritz Haber Library;
- The Institute for Physics and Physical Chemistry;
- The Wolf Building and Laboratory (Pilot plants);
- The Precision Instrument Workshop.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

The Government maintains a number of agricultural research stations in different parts of the country, including three Experimental Stations in Wadi Araba in the Negev, a large Animal Husbandry Station at Acre, a Sea Fishing Research Station, a Fish Breeding Research Station, a Forestry Research Station, several Vegetable Raising Experimental Farms and three Regional Field Crop Stations.

CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

1. THEATRE

Israel has five permanent theatrical companies: —

- (1) *Habimah*, a dramatic company, founded in 1918 in Russia and transferred to Israel in 1928. A cooperative theatre, consisting of 24 actor-members, 18 young actors and 40 general employees in various branches;
- (2) *Ohel*, a dramatic company, founded in 1925 as a cooperative associated with the Histadrut. The Ohel consists of 25 members and a staff of 50.
- (3) *Chamber Theatre*, a dramatic company, founded in 1945 as a cooperative theatre by 20 actors and employing a staff of 40.
- (4) *Matate*, a cooperative theatre specializing in satirical musical revues on current political and social problems. It was founded in 1930.
- (5) *Li-La-Lo*, founded in 1944, presents musical revues and satire. The company is a cooperative, employing 30 actors and 35 other employees.

The following plays were produced for the first time in Israel in Hebrew during 1951. They include three plays by Israel authors written in Hebrew (*). The others are translations from English (five), French (four), Spanish (three), Russian (two), Yiddish (one), Norwegian (one), and German (one).

HABIMAH —

- "The Sheep Well," by Lope de Vega
- "Death of a Salesman," by Arthur Miller
- "Marriage of Figaro," by Beaumarchais
- "Legend of the River," by Alexander Cansona
- "Mother Courage," by Berthold Brecht
- "House of Bernarda Alba," by F. G. Lorca
- "Little Foxes," by Lillian Hellman
- (*) "The Road to Elath," by Aharon Meged.

OHEL —

- "Stepanchikovo Village," by Dostoevski
- "My Darling Son," by Roland and Michael Pertwee
- "A Desolate Corner," by Perez Hirshbein
- "The Wiseacre," by A. Ostrovsky
- "L'Ecole des Femmes," by Moliere.

CHAMBER THEATRE —

- "Tartuffe," by Moliere
- "Hotel de Commerce," by de Maupassant (re-written for the stage by Fritz Hochwalder)
- "Enemy of the People," by Ibsen
- (*) "The Four Corners of the World," by A. Lahola
- (*) "Queen of Sheba," by S. Groneman
- "Of Mice and Men," by John Steinbeck
- "Juno and the Peacock," by O'Casey.

II. MUSIC

There are eight orchestras in Israel. The leading orchestra is the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, founded in 1936 by Bronislav Huberman. It consists of some 80 players. In 1951, the orchestra gave 142 concerts in Israel and 54 concerts in the United States and Canada.

The other orchestras are: —

- The "Kol Israel" Radio Orchestra;
- Two Chamber Orchestras;
- The Israel Defense Army Orchestra;
- Three Orchestras in settlements.

In addition, there are a number of permanent Chamber Music combinations, which give regular performances.

OPERA AND CHORAL MUSIC

- (1) The Hebrew National Opera Company was founded in 1948.
- (2) Theatron Musicali (Operetta) was founded in 1950.
- (3) There are some 100 permanent choirs of varying sizes throughout the country.

MUSIC FESTIVALS

A Music Festival is held every year during Passover at Ein Gev on the Eastern shores of the Sea of Galilee.

MUSICAL EDUCATION

There are 18 Music Conservatoires in Israel. A Music Division of the Ministry of Education and Culture supervises musical education in recognized conservatoires, and awards diplomas for graduates of these conservatoires.

MUSIC ETHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

The Music Division of the Ministry of Education and Culture has created an Ethnological Institute to examine and record Oriental and East European Jewish folk and dance music, which is in danger of being lost as the diasporas in various countries are liquidated and the source of this music disappears. Teams of musicians with recording apparatus visit the various immigrant camps and the records are subjected to detailed research. They are also sent to research institutes abroad.

III. MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERIES

The oldest museum is the Bezalel Museum in Jerusalem, which was founded in 1906. Other museums include the Tel Aviv Museum founded in 1926, the Museum of the Department of Antiquities in Jerusalem, the Haaretz Museum in Tel Aviv, the Museum of Art in Haifa, the Hanna Senesh Museum in Caesarea, the Gordon Museum in Degania, the Histadrut Museum in Tel Aviv, the Museum at Ein Harod, and the Archaeological Museum at Sha'ar Hagolan.

There are numerous art galleries in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa, and smaller collections in other towns, villages and settlements.

There are also several Art Schools, notably the Bezalel Art School in Jerusalem.

IV. LIBRARIES AND BOOKPUBLISHING

The biggest library in Israel is the National and Hebrew University Library in Jerusalem. The Tel Aviv Municipality maintains a municipal library. During 1950, 925 books were published in Hebrew. Of these, 855 were original manuscripts and 70 were translations. In addition, 25 books were published in foreign languages.

V. FOLK DANCING

There are a number of folk dancing and ballet schools in Israel. Dance Festivals were held at Kibbutz Dalia in the Ephraim Hills in 1944, 1947, and 1951.

VI. CINEMAS

There are 120 cinemas in towns and villages, with seating accommodation for approximately 70,000.

In addition, regular cinema shows are held in over 300 rural settlements.

The following are the countries of origin of the films imported during 1951:—

	35 MM. FILMS		16 MM. FILMS	
	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Short</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Short</i>
United States	180	102	90	38
U.S.S.R.	6	27	—	—
France	23	2	11	2
United Kingdom	12	—	2	28
Italy	9	—	—	—
Hungary	1	—	—	—
Czechoslovakia	4	—	—	—
Switzerland	1	—	—	—
Poland	6	2	1	3
Rumania	1	2	—	—
Mexico	6	1	—	—
Argentina	4	—	—	—
Egypt	4	—	—	—

VII. RADIO

The Israel State Broadcasting Station, the Voice of Israel (Kol Israel), is on the air for seventeen hours daily from its Jerusalem studio. Parts of the program are broadcast from the Tel Aviv studio.

There are 6 regular daily news services in Hebrew; 3 in Arabic; 2 in English and 1 in French.

1¾ hours per day are devoted to Arabic programs.

The following programs are broadcast for new immigrants:—

Daily in Yiddish, Ladino and French;

Three times weekly in Rumanian, Hungarian and Turkish;

Twice weekly in Persian.

A daily broadcast in English, French and Yiddish from 2230 hours to 0100 hours (33.3 m. - 9009 kcs.) is made as a result of an agreement between the Government and the Zionist Organization under the name of "Kol Zion La-Golah" (The Voice of Zion to the Diaspora).

The Israel Defense Forces', "Galei Tzahal," for members of the Israel armed forces, is on the air for 3½ hours daily.

THE PRESS

Nineteen morning and three afternoon newspapers appear daily in Israel. Fourteen of these are Hebrew language papers. The others appear in Arabic (1), English (1), French (1), German (2), Hungarian (1) and Bulgarian (2).

Some seventy-five weekly and fortnightly journals, including illustrated, technical, community, and party papers in Hebrew and in eleven other languages, and some ninety monthlies and quarterlies, mostly technical, literary, religious, art and party magazines, mainly in Hebrew, are published in Israel.

The following are the daily newspapers with their party affiliations:—

NAME	FOUNDED	AFFILIATION	LANGUAGE	DESCRIPTION
Haaretz	1918	Independent	Hebrew	Morning paper
Davar	1925	Histadrut	"	" "
Haboker	1934	General Zionist	"	" "
Hatzofe	1938	Mizrachi	"	" "
Al Hamishmar	1943	Mapam	"	" "
Kol Ha'am	1947	Communist	"	" "
Herut	1948	Herut Party	"	" "
Hakol	1949	Agudat Israel	"	" "
Hamodia	1950	World Agudat Israel	"	" "
Omer	1950	Histadrut	Vowelled- Hebrew	" "
Sha'arim	1951	Poalei Agudat Israel	Hebrew	" "
Yediot Acharonot	1939	Independent	Hebrew	Afternoon paper
Maariv	1948	"	"	" "
Hador	1949	Mapai	"	" "
El Yom	1948	Independent	Arabic	Morning paper
Jerusalem Post	1932	Independent	English	Morning paper
Yediot Hadashot	1936	Independent	German	Morning paper
Yediot Hayom	1936	"	"	" "
L'Echo d'Israel	1948	Independent	French	Morning paper
Ujkelet	1948	Independent	Hungarian	Morning paper
Far	1950	Independent	Bulgarian	Morning paper
Mir	1951	"	"	" "

ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES

The Israel Defense Forces Ordinance of 26th May, 1948, legalized the Government's measures to build up the wartime army which defeated the Arab armies then engaged in active hostilities against Israel.

The Defense Service Law (passed on 8th September, 1949) with its amendments provides for the establishment of the permanent Israel Defense Forces. It provides for:—

1. The creation of a regular army.

A compulsory two-year conscription for men between the ages of 18

to 26; 18 months conscription for men aged 27 to 29; and a two-year conscription period for unmarried women aged 18 to 26.

This law also provides that nine months of the two years of conscription service shall be devoted to agricultural training.

2. Reserves. Subject to their liability to serve in the regular army for their period of conscription, all men aged 18 to 49, and childless women aged 18 to 34, are liable for service in the reserve, on the following scale: —

Men aged 18 to 39 for 31 consecutive days service per year;

Men aged 40 to 49 for 14 consecutive days service per year;

Women aged 18 to 34 for 31 consecutive days service per year;

All are liable, in addition, to one day's service per month.

Commissioned and non-commissioned officers are liable to an additional 7 days service, which they serve when doing their annual training; thus an officer falling in the 18-39 age-group does 38 consecutive days service.

Women may be exempted from service in the armed forces if they have religious objections.

The General Staff of the Israel Defense Forces commands all the services, land, sea and air. The ranks in all the three services are uniform as well.

The following are the commissioned ranks for the Israel Defense Army, together with their English equivalents: —

RAV-ALOOF (MAJOR-GENERAL)

Only 2 persons at present hold the rank of Rav-Aloof:

Rav-Aloof Yigal Yadin, the present Chief of Staff, and his predecessor Rav-Aloof Yaacov Dori.

Rav-Aloof	Major General	Segen Mishneh	Second Lieutenant
Aloof	Brigadier	Rav-Samal Plugati	Company Sgt. Major
Aloof Mishneh	Colonel	Rav-Samal Gdudi	Battalion Sgt. Major
Sgan-Aloof	Lieut. Colonel	Samal Rishon	Staff Sergeant
Rav-Seren	Major	Samal	Sergeant
Seren	Captain	Rav-Turai	Corporal
Segen	Lieutenant	Turai Rishon	Private First Class

CHRONOLOGY

- 1948 May 14 Establishment of the State of Israel. Provisional Government sworn in, with David Ben-Gurion as Prime Minister.
- 14 United States of America recognizes Israel de facto.
- 15 Regular armies of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria attack Israel.
- 16 Dr. Chaim Weizmann elected President of the Provisional Council of State.
- 18 U.S.S.R. recognizes Israel de jure.
- 26 The Israel Defense Forces Ordinance promulgated establishing the Israel Defense Army.
- June 11 Beginning of first truce ordered by the Security Council.
- July 8 Truce ends when Mediator's appeal for an extension is rejected by the Arab States. Israel agrees to the extension. Fighting lasts ten days. Israel forces capture among other places Lod, Ramle and Nazareth, and break through the Egyptian barrier to the Negev.
- 18 Second truce begins.
- Aug. 16 Israel currency becomes legal tender.
- Sept. 14 Supreme Court of Israel inaugurated in Jerusalem.
- Oct. 15 Israel convoy to Negev attacked. This touches off Negev fighting which lasts seven days.
- 21 The Negev fighting ends with liberation of Beersheba by Israel Defense Forces; isolation of Egyptian troops in Hebron from their main base; encirclement of Egyptian troops in Faluja pocket and the opening of free land communications with the Negev settlements.
- 29-31 Israel Defense Forces clear all Galilee in fifty-hour operation against Kaukji's irregulars.
- Nov. 21 Egyptian forces attack and capture Tel el Fara, Tel el Jamma and Khirbet Kutchar in the Negev.
- Dec. 6 Sixteen Egyptian tanks launch attack near Nirim in the Negev.
- 7 Road of Valor to Jerusalem formally opened.
- 22 Egyptians withdraw their armistice talks offer.

- 23 Renewed fighting in southern Israel.
- 31 Bir Asluj and Auja el-Hafir occupied by Israel Defense Forces, Egyptians pursued across border and Egyptian frontier base, Abuaweigila, captured.
- 31 102,000 immigrants arrived in Israel since the establishment of the State.
- 1949 Jan. 2 Under strong diplomatic pressure, Israel forces stop pursuit of Egyptians and withdraw from Egyptian territory.
- 7 End of hostilities in southern Israel.
- 13 Israel-Egyptian negotiations for an armistice open in Rhodes.
- 20 United States Export-Import Bank grants \$100,000,000 loan to Israel.
- 25 General Elections held to the First Knesset, which is to replace the Provisional Council of State.
- Feb. 10 The Provisional Council of State holds its last meeting.
- 14 Israel's First Knesset opened in Jerusalem by Dr. Chaim Weizmann.
- 16 Transition Law ("Small Constitution") adopted by the Knesset.
- 17 Dr. Chaim Weizmann elected First President of Israel.
- 24 An Armistice Agreement with Egypt signed in Rhodes.
- Mar. 1 Israel-Jordan negotiations for an armistice open in Rhodes.
- 1 Israel-Lebanese armistice talks open at Rosh Hanikra (Ras en Naqura).
- 7 The Prime Minister, Mr. David Ben-Gurion, and his coalition cabinet take the oath of office after a vote of confidence in the Knesset.
- 12 Israel flag hoisted at Eilat on the Red Sea.
- 23 Israel-Lebanese Armistice Agreement signed at Rosh Hanikra (Ras en Naqura).
- Apr. 3 Israel-Jordan Armistice Agreement signed in Rhodes.
- 5 Israel-Syrian negotiations for an armistice begin.
- 26 Government austerity plan comes into operation.
- May 11 Israel becomes a member of the United Nations.
- July 20 Israel-Syrian Armistice Agreement signed in no-man's land near Mahanayim.

- Aug. 17 The remains of Theodor Herzl re-interred in Jerusalem.
- Sept. 8 The Defense Service Law passed.
 - 12 Compulsory Education Law passed by the Knesset.
- Nov. 9 Rav-Aloof Yigal Yadin succeeds Rav-Aloof Yaacov Dori as Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces.
- Dec. 13 Knesset returns to Jerusalem.
 - 31 239,000 immigrants arrived during 1949.
- 1950 Mar. 29 The Encouragement of Capital Investment Law passed by the Knesset.
 - June 13 The Constitution and Law Committee of the Knesset is instructed to draft the Constitution, which will be submitted to the Knesset and adopted as each article is completed.
 - July 5 The "Law of the Return" is passed, affirming the right of every Jew to settle in Israel.
 - Sept. 3 The Conference of American Jewish leaders, called by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and the Chairman of the Jewish Agency, opens in Jerusalem. The Conference is presented with a three-year plan for the absorption of 600,000 new immigrants. The Conference decides to raise 1,500,000,000 dollars during this period, 1,000,000,000 dollars of which is to be raised by American Jewry.
 - Oct. 15 Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion submits the resignation of his Cabinet.
 - Nov. 1 Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion receives vote of confidence in the Knesset for a reshuffled Cabinet.
 - 29 The 500,000th immigrant since the establishment of the State reaches Israel.
 - Dec. 14 Municipal Elections to 43 towns and local councils held.
 - 27 The United States Export-Import Bank grants a further \$35,000,000 loan for agricultural development.
 - 31 169,000 immigrants arrived during 1950.
- 1951 February Beginning of Bagdad-Lyddda airlift (Operation Ali-Baba) transferring some 70,000 Iraqi Jews to Israel at a rate of 20,000-30,000 a month.
 - 26 Point Four Agreement signed by the United States and Israel, under which Israel will receive technical assistance in a variety of development fields.

- 27 The Independence Loan Bill, authorizing the Government to float a bond issue aggregating \$500,000,000, passed by the Knesset.
- Mar. 11 Israel's demand for \$1,500,000,000 as recompense payment from Germany on account of an estimated \$6,000,000,000 of Jewish property confiscated and plundered by the Germans during the Nazi regime is presented to the Governments of the United States, Soviet Union, United Kingdom and France.
- Mar.-June Dispute over the Huleh Drainage Scheme. Syria used force in an attempt to halt the project. After two months of sporadic outbreaks of violence, the Security Council on May 8 passed a resolution calling for a cease-fire. On June 11 the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization authorized the continuation of the drainage work, except on small strips of land aggregating $6\frac{1}{4}$ acres whose Arab owners residing in Syria would not agree to any form of compensation.
- May Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion visits the United States; confers with President Truman and Secretary of State Dean Acheson. The \$500,000,000 State of Israel Independence Bond Issue is floated throughout the United States. By the end of 1951, bonds to the value of more than \$100,000,000 were subscribed.
- July 15 During the second week of July, the air evacuation of 106,662 Jews from Iraq was completed, thus ending mass immigration from that country.
- July 30 General elections to the Second Knesset.
- July-Sept. The Egyptian blockade before the Security Council. Ever since the Arab States' aggressive war against Israel in 1948, and even after the Egyptian-Israel Armistice Agreement was concluded, Egypt has maintained a blockade on Israel-bound shipping through the Suez Canal. On July 12 the question of Egypt's blockade was brought by Israel before the Security Council as "jeopardizing the Armistice Agreement and endangering the peace and security of the Middle East." After several meetings, on September 1 the Security Council adopted a resolution calling on Egypt to terminate her blockade practices. So far Egypt has not complied with the Security Council's resolution.

- Aug. 23 A Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the United States and Israel was signed in Washington. The Treaty, based in general upon the principles of national and of most-favored-nation treatment, aims at the regulation and promotion of economic relations between the two countries.
- Sept. 13 Paris Conference of the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission. The Commission, established by the General Assembly resolution of December 11, 1948, "to assist the Governments and authorities concerned to achieve a final settlement of all questions outstanding between them," made another effort to fulfill its task by inviting the parties to a conference in Paris. The Commission submitted to the representatives of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Israel a "Comprehensive Pattern of Proposals." The Commission proposed that its proposals should be preceded by a solemn declaration of the parties "to settle all differences, present or future, solely by resort to pacific procedures, refraining from any use of force or acts of hostility." Israel agreed to this declaration, which would be tantamount to a non-aggression pact between the four Arab States and Israel. The Arab States declined. Thus, the Arab States' refusal to accept the Palestine Conciliation Commission's proposed declaration deadlocked the Paris Conference.
- Nov. 19
- October Mr. David Ben-Gurion (Mapai) forms a new government based on a coalition of Mapai and the religious parties (Mizrahi, Hapoel Hamizrahi, Agudat Israel and Poale Agudat Israel). On October 8 the basic program of the Government was approved by the Knesset through a vote of confidence in the new Government.
- Oct. 10 Under the terms of the Mutual Security Act, passed by the Congress of the United States, Israel obtains a \$65,000,000 Grant-in-Aid for the fiscal year 1951-52. Up to \$50,000,000 was allocated for assistance in the absorption of new immigrants.
- Nov. 19 The Knesset re-elects Dr. Chaim Weizmann as President of Israel for a second term.
- Dec. 31 173,901 immigrants arrived in Israel in 1951.



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This report is based on material from a forthcoming study entitled "Jews in Moslem Countries" by Dr. Joseph B. Schechtman, member of the Jewish Agency Executive, an outstanding authority in this field. Dr. Schechtman's study which provides valuable background information on the modern history of Iraq Jewry is of particular significance at this time in view of the anticipated entry into Israel of some 70,000 Iraq Jews, who have been permitted to leave Iraq.

May, 1950

I. A WELL-ORGANIZED COMMUNITY

2,500 Years Old

- "My family lived in this country since the days of Nebuchadnezzar, and in Baghdad since this city was founded in 726 C.E. by Caliph Manqur," a young Iraqi Jew proudly told a European Jewish visitor. "My family has seen conquerors come and go, watched plagues and pestilences devastate the inhabitants, lived through massacres and civil war - yet here we are!"

This boastful statement might be historically not fully accurate. But no one can doubt that the Jewish community of Iraq is of great antiquity. It is one of the oldest organized communities of Jews in a foreign land. In the Talmudic and Gaonic period, under the Arsacids, Sassanids and Abbasids, Babylonian Jewry grew in power, wealth and culture, overcoming temporary setbacks with constantly renewed vitality. However, since the middle of the eleventh century C.E., successive invasions by Mongols and Turks, unsettled conditions in the country and its consequent economic decline, led to progressive isolation of Babylonian Jewry and the glory of the Babylonian Diaspora began on its downward path. Nevertheless, the celebrated Jewish traveler, Benjamin of Tudela, who visited Baghdad in the middle of the twelfth century, found there about a thousand Jewish families and a synagogue which called forth his admiration. All later travelers invariably mention Jews in Baghdad- or as it was originally called, Dor-es-Salaam - the Abode of Peace.

Unlike most groups of Jews in the Diaspora, Iraq Jewry is largely homogeneous. There has been no noticeable influx of "foreign" Jews. Such as settled there from outside came from neighboring Persia. Even the wave of Sephardic immigration which

reached almost every corner of the Ottoman Empire stopped at the gates of the present Iraq territory. Preserving during the late centuries almost intact their physical type and their cultural tradition, the Iraq Jews are in many ways different from their Jewish brethren in other countries. On the other hand, there has also been no considerable emigration from Iraq, though during the last century or two a number of families left Baghdad and Basra to try their fortune in India and the Far East. They founded prosperous communities in Bombay, Calcutta, Rangoon and Shanghai. In our own days a number of Jewish merchants and students left Iraq for Europe and America. The most illustrious of the Iraq Jewish "exiles" was the Sassoon family of Baghdad, descendants of a "Prince of the Captivity."

During Turkish times, Iraq Jewry lived the comparatively quiet and stagnant life of a remote and neglected Ottoman province. The administration, though generally inefficient and corrupt, did not oppress the Jews as such. In keeping with a Turkish-Moslem tradition of long standing, all religious minorities enjoyed autonomy in communal organization, worship, education, philanthropy and so on, and the Jews were able to make their contribution to the economic and social life of the country. They were well known for their industry and skill, and some of them occupied high government positions. They also contributed considerably to the country's commercial development by establishing and maintaining trading contacts between Iraq and other countries.

Position After Iraq's Liberation

For a time after the country's liberation from Turkish rule, there was no noticeable change in the position of the Jewish minority. Under the British Mandate and the benevolent regime of King Feisal I (1921 - 1933) the Jews benefited considerably by the

creation of the new administration. Because of their standard of education and their knowledge of foreign languages, many of them played a prominent role in government service and trade. They were allowed to expand their school system, and in their schools Hebrew was taught in addition to Arabic, English and French; some of the teachers were from Palestine. Organizations of Jewish youths sprang up and Zionist activity was not interfered with. The number of Jewish youths in governmental schools, especially in the upper classes of the secondary schools, and among the governmental bursaries sent abroad, increased steadily. There was growing contact with the younger Arab generation and Jewish sentiment for Arabic culture became deeper and more conscious. King Feisal I, after his election proclaimed:

"There is no meaning in the words 'Jews, Moslems and Christians' in the terminology of patriotism. There is simply a country called Iraq, and all are Iraqis. I ask my countrymen, the Iraqis, to be only Iraqis because we all belong to one stock, the stock of our ancestor Shem; we all belong to that noble race, and there is no distinction between Moslem, Christian and Jew."

Number and Communal Organization

According to reliable estimates there are approximately 130,000 - 150,000 Jews in Iraq, of them 90,000 - 100,000 in Baghdad; 10,000 - 11,000 live in the port town of Basra; 6,000 in Mosul in the north; 5,000 in Erbil (ancient Arbela) and 2,800 in the oil town of Kurkuk, in the Kurdish area. Smaller Jewish communities of 1,400 to 2,000 exist in Suleimania, Hilla, Naizra and Amara, and single Jewish families are to be found in remote villages all over the country.

Jewish communal life is regulated by the "Law of the Jewish Community" (N77 of 1931). All Iraq Jews are considered members of their respective communities unless they renounce their Jewish faith. (The first three communities to be recognized by the Law were those of Baghdad, Basra and Mosul; later the community of Amara was added.) The Law provides for a General Council, to be elected by universal manhood suffrage every five years, to direct the general policy of the community; a Lay Council, nominated by the General Council, which is responsible for the administration of religious endowments, supervision of schools and charities, finance and taxation; a President and a Chief Rabbi (both offices may be held by the same person) elected by the General Council. The President represents the community in dealings with the Government.

The budget of the Baghdad Jewish community for the year 1945 amounted to 100,000 dinars (\$400,000). Its main sources of income were hospital fees (26,000 dinars), school fees (34,000 dinars) and a tax on kosher meat. The main expenditures were for schools (47,000 dinars) and hospitals (44,000 dinars).

Well organized and closely knit, Iraq Jewry enjoyed a certain amount of autonomy in matters of culture and charity.

II. THE ANTI-JEWISH REGIME SINCE 1933

The Rise of Aggressive Arab Nationalism

At the beginning of the nineteen-thirties, progress toward the formation of an independent Arab State, with looser British control, had gone sufficiently far to allow the army, the schools and the administration to become imbued with an aggressive religious Arab national exclusiveness deeply inimical

to Iraq's minorities. By the side of the Arab population of two and a half million, there were 400,000 Kurds, 130,000 Jews and nearly as many Christians of various denominations. Arab nationalism found a convenient outlet in a policy of persecution of these minorities from the moment it was felt that the latter could no longer count on British protection.

Guarantees for the Minorities

Fully aware of the necessity to protect minority groups from the Arab majority, the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations insisted, during the discussion of the British proposals to grant Iraq full independence, that the emancipation of the mandated territory "should be made dependent upon...certain guarantees satisfactory to the League of Nations...The undertakings of the new state should ensure and guarantee the effective protection of racial, linguistic and religious minorities."

In the formal declaration of guarantees on matters of international concern communicated to the Council by the Iraq Government on July 13, 1932, ten of the sixteen articles dealt with minorities. These provided that nationals belonging to racial, religious or linguistic minorities should be admitted to "public enjoyments, functions and honors" and to the exercise of professions or industries, and it was expressly stated that these minority articles should be recognized as part of the fundamental law of Iraq and should constitute international obligations.

The Jews did not petition the League of Nations for minority rights, as did the Assyrians, Kurds and Armenians, but this did not keep them from being persecuted along with the other non-Arab minorities. The first year of complete Iraq independence, 1933, was marked by a massacre of the Assyrians, whose tragedy had a strong if only inane echo in the

Christian world. This was followed by expeditions against the Kurds and the persecution of the small "yezedi" people who for centuries had lived in the mountains of northern Iraq.

The Jews Begin to Feel Unsafe

In this atmosphere, the Jews began to feel increasingly unsafe. A dispatch from Baghdad, published in the London Daily News on August 29, 1933, said that Iraq Jews were alarmed over their safety and that "when the Iraq" army returned after the weekend (after the raid against the Assyrians), not one Christian or Jew was seen on the streets."

The end of the British Mandate coincided with Hitler's accession to power, and the German Minister in Baghdad, Fritz Grobba, succeeded in creating in Iraq an active and influential center of Nazi propaganda. Grobba and other German agents lavished gifts on high Iraqi officials, and every year they sent fifty highly born Iraq youths and army officers to Germany where they were treated like princes. These came back to Iraq fanatical friends of the "new Germany" convinced of the invincible strength of the Nazi army and air force, and firm in their belief that the only possible future for "a Greater Arabia" lay in collaboration with the "Greater Germany" which Hitler had created. The first contingent to return soon persuaded the non-too-reluctant Iraq Government to discharge Jewish civil servants and to give them the vacated Government jobs.

The Palestine question was a most convenient instrument of anti-Jewish agitations. Since 1929, a systematic and widespread propaganda campaign, in which Arab teachers from Syria and Palestine played a special role, was conducted. It reached its climax when some of the followers of the Mufti of Jerusalem, and then the Mufti himself, fled from Palestine during the period of the riots, 1936-1939,

and took up residence in Baghdad. There they exerted considerable influence in nationalist and religious circles; they spread fantastic stories about expropriations, plundering and violence against the Arabs in Palestine. This anti-Jewish and anti-Zionist propaganda provided an opportunity to divert extreme nationalist sentiments from issues where such sentiment would have been inopportune. As a result, the Palestine problem became a major issue in Iraqi politics.

Legislation and Reality

Succeeding Iraqi Governments have always claimed that the apprehensions of the Iraqi Jews were unfounded. Referring to the Constitution of March 21, 1925, they quote Article 6, which prescribes that "there shall be no differentiation in the rights of Iraqis before the law, whatever differences may exist in language, race or creed," and Article 18, which stipulates that "Iraq nationals are equal in the enjoyment of civil and political rights and the performance of public duties and obligations. No distinction shall be made between them on account of origin, language, or religion." They also refer to the electoral law of October 22, 1924, which secures the representation of the minorities, including Jews, in the Parliament.

It is true that there was never open anti-Jewish legislation in Iraq. The Government's anti-Jewish policy has been basically of the "cold" Polish, and not of the openly "Nueremberg laws" brand. Ostensibly, the Jews are full-fledged citizens, but during the past fifteen years, the reality has been far different. In Minorities in the Arab World, A.H. Hourani, an Arab scholar, admits that although "there is no open and official discrimination against them (the Jews of Iraq)...there is, however, considerable hostility towards them, because of traditional religious hatred and their

economic power." This hostility is not limited to the uneducated masses (90 per cent of the population is still illiterate) but found expression in the policy of anti-Jewish discrimination practiced by succeeding Iraqi Governments.

Undermining the Jewish Economic Position

The anti-Jewish policy also considerably affected the economic position of the Jews. Official United States' reports ascribe this decline to discrimination in taxation and in the granting of foreign currency licenses. One report stated that Jews were treated with exceptional strictness in the matter of income tax assessments; while another noted that the Jews of Basra had complained that they were given foreign exchange licenses, import permits, or passports to travel on business outside the country only after many delays; they also complained that taxes were heavier on the Jews and that the courts imposed harder sentences on them.

The situation in smaller localities was even worse. "In the provincial towns, with the possible exception of Basra," Jesse Zel Lurie reported in 1941, after a visit to Iraq, "the higher stratum of Jewish society is entirely lacking...a large number of Jews live steeped in poverty and ignorance. These live in narrow filthy streets which can compete for dirt with the worst of other Oriental Jewish quarters."

Anti-Jewish Violence

Yusuf Malek, an Assyrian leader who was chief of the Iraq Civil Service from June 1917 to September 1930, asserts that "in Iraq, Moslems find it more easy to kill a Jew than to kill a chicken. Murderers as in the case of the other minorities are seldom punished. It is a crime to execute a Moslem for killing a Jew; the Jew is considered too mean an

object to be equal to an Arab life."

This statement by an outraged Assyrian patriot, whose memories were poisoned by the tragic plight of his own people in Iraq, should not be taken literally. But terrorist acts against the Jews had already occurred in the pre-World War II period. In July 1937, there were violent anti-Jewish demonstrations in the Iraq capital and tens of thousands marched through the streets. "Most Baghdad Jews realized the seriousness of the situation," cabled the New York Times correspondent, "and business men closed their establishments and rushed to the safety of their homes, where they bolted their doors and lowered shutters. Two Jewish merchants who remained in their shops during one protest were killed by a mob that had been told by agitators that the British had given control of a Moslem holy area in Jerusalem to the Jews."

"Terrorist acts became still more serious in 1938...nitric acid was cast on Jewish passers-by," said a Jewish Agency memorandum to the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry.

Rashid Ali Gailani's coup in the spring of 1941 brought to power the most violent anti-Jewish elements in the army and among politicians. The one-month "war against Britain" (May 1941) filled Baghdad Jewry with fear and foreboding. The blow struck on the 1st and 2nd of June, at the very moment when Gailani fled and the armistice with the British was concluded. The police, far from preventing the rioters from killing and looting, fired on Jewish homes and openly took part in the attack. The report of the official investigation commission appointed by the new government - moderate as it tried to be - gives a precise picture of those bloody days: 110 Jews were killed, 240 were wounded, 86 Jewish enterprises were looted and 911 Jewish houses destroyed. Unofficial accounts put the number of

deaths at 150 and the number of wounded at more than 700, while the material damage was estimated at 750,000 dinars, or about three-million dollars.

But worse even than these direct cases of violence was the ever-present feeling of fear and insecurity which permeated Jewish life in Iraq. A U.S. consular report on the status of the Jews of Basra stated:

"Every Jew talked with had a feeling of insecurity and fear for his life which predominates over everything else. They expect another purge of Jews in Iraq on a grander scale than during the 1941 troubles but do not know when...It is the unknown future that continually plagues their imagination, not the present situation.

"During conversations with them, all were very conscious of any persons near by. They felt every move was being watched and that somehow it would be found out that the Jewish question was being discussed. Some of the people approached would say nothing and others tried to end the meeting as soon as possible. They continually fear arrests on grounds that they are Zionists or members of some other 'foreign' organization."

III. THE CATASTROPHE AFTER MAY 15, 1948

The Jewish community of Iraq, already badly shattered by the inimical Government policy of the past fifteen years, has become the object of an unprecedented onslaught obviously aimed at its total destruction and carried on with every means at the disposal of the governmental machinery. Information on measures designed to have this effect can be found in the Arab press in Iraq and other Arab countries. Specific excerpts from this source will

be quoted in the following survey of events. Most of the data used in this chapter, however, have been obtained from Iraqi Jewish sources which cannot be revealed. They are known to be authentic and precise, and their reliability cannot be doubted. They coincide fully with the scattered data published in the Arab press and in their totality they present an appalling picture of a "cold pogrom" which includes searches, arrests, denunciation, torture, mass imprisonment, ruinous fines, deliberate pauperization, wholesale educational discrimination, and so on.

Martial Law and Martial Courts

On May 15, 1948, Iraq, together with Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Transjordan, went to war against the State of Israel. On the same day, Iraq declared martial law. Officially, this step was motivated by the need to secure the rear of the Iraqi Army which was sent into Palestine and to protect the Jews against possible mob attacks. In practice, however, it was used as a legal weapon for a wave of governmental terror aimed at the destruction of the Jewish community.

Under cover of the law, scores of Jewish homes were searched, often at night, in the most brutal fashion. Walls were sometimes knocked down, cupboards broken to pieces and bedding torn. If money or jewelry was found, it was confiscated immediately. The Jews did not dare protest for fear of antagonizing the searchers and being sent to jail. Sometimes the searchers were satisfied with the valuables they found and did not molest their victims further. More often, however, they were taken to the police even if nothing incriminating was discovered, and considerable sums of money were demanded for their release. Those who refused or were unable to pay were tortured until they agreed to do so. They were then released; in many cases, however, they were

re-arrested later and put under similar pressure. Those who did not yield to the threats and beatings were transferred to jail for further investigation. There they were subjected to an even more cruel procedure of extortion. Several Jews who were subsequently acquitted by the court left the prison badly undermined in health; one prominent merchant came out completely blind.

Three hundred and ten Jews were arrested by the military authorities in the early days of martial law. One hundred and sixty were released after questioning during varying periods of detention; one hundred and fifty were held for further investigation and trial.

Simultaneously with the promulgation of martial law, four regional martial courts were established in Baghdad, Basra, Mosul and Diwaniyya. These cared very little for protecting the rights and personal dignity of the defendants. The judges often cursed and insulted the accused, who naturally could not protest, knowing too well that to do so would only increase the severity of their sentence. It is reported that during an important trial, the president of the court vigorously slapped and kicked the defendant before pronouncing sentence.

The punishments meted out by the military courts have been exceedingly severe. During a single week in September, 1948, the military courts delivered thirty-two verdicts; the lightest sentence was one year imprisonment with a fine of 10,000 pounds to be paid to the treasury for the account of the Ministry of National Defense, reported the Cairo Arab paper Ruz al-Yusuf (N1060).

Only a fraction of the cases reported in the Arab press contained the two essential components of every judicial or even administrative procedure: the charge against the accused and the penalty imposed. Much more numerous are the cases in which

Jews were sentenced with no reason given by the martial court. Arab papers and broadcasts for the period from September 2, 1948 to April 27, 1949 have published forty-nine names of Jews who - without indication of charges -, in their totality, were sentenced to prison for 117 years and eight months (four Jews were, in addition, sentenced to life imprisonment), their fines amounted to 27,500 dinars, and they had to deposit bonds amounting to 12,000 dinars as guarantees of good conduct. (One defendent had his entire property confiscated.) The Arab press also announced the arrest of at least twenty Jews whose cases, as far as can be judged on the basis of available information, never came before the courts; nothing is known about the penalties to which they were subjected.

Many Jews had to deposit bonds ranging from fifty dinars to 3,000 dinars as a guarantee for future "good conduct".

When martial law was first imposed, relatives of imprisoned persons were permitted to visit them on specially authorized days and to bring them food. Later such visits were cancelled. The prisoners remained in complete isolation and received no supplies from the outside; the result was a considerable lowering of morale and deterioration of health, and at least three died in prison.

An administrative order decreed the concentration of all Jewish prisoners in the prison at Mukrat Salman, near the town of Kut, which is known for its swamps and contagious diseases.

Zionism - A Capital Crime

On July 14, 1948, two months after the promulgation of martial law, the Iraqi House of Representatives passed an amendment to Article 51 of the Baghdad Criminal Code making Zionism, together with

anarchism, nazism, communism, and atheism, a subversive and criminal creed, punishable by death, hard labor for life, or imprisonment up to fifteen years. The amendment was formulated in so vague a form that not only overt Zionist activities but sympathy with the Zionist idea could be considered a crime. The courts instituted under martial law acquired full powers to punish any Jew accused of being a Zionist.

Under the terms of martial law, the testimony of two Moslem witnesses is sufficient to prove an accusation against any person. Similarly, the courts admit policemen as neutral witnesses. This travesty of justice has resulted in an avalanche of denunciations. Any two Moslem Arabs can blackmail their Jewish neighbors. If they do not obtain satisfaction, they can go to court and make accusations of "Zionism" or "treacherous behavior" against the State. Sometimes witnesses appear in court several times in one day to give evidence against different Jews, and their testimony is given credence.

Letters from Palestine

When the British Mandate over Palestine ended, the Palestine Administration handed over to the Iraqi Post Office a batch of letters from Palestine addressed to Iraq Jews. These letters had been mailed before May 15, 1948, but had not been forwarded by the Palestine postal service.

The Iraqi Government used these letters to persecute its Jewish citizens. Every addressee and every Jew mentioned in the letters was eo ipso considered a "Zionist" and became subject to persecution under martial law. Scores of Jews were arrested, detained for months, often mistreated and tortured, and then brought before the courts. Many were sentenced to imprisonment for terms ranging from three to ten years, subjected to hard labor and

to fines which ranged generally from 1,000 to 10,000 dinars. Those who could not pay had their property confiscated and sold at very low prices. Among the cases, the following are typical:

Saleh Ephraim, sixty years old, was sentenced on April 4, 1949 to seven years at hard labor and fined 500 dinars because he received a letter from his son in Palestine requesting some money. He was brutally treated and died in the latter part of July, 1949.

Shemtob Gharib, a lawyer, and Nadhim Gharib were sentenced to three years at hard labor, each for having received a letter from Palestine.

Lia Yakub Fattal received a letter from Palestine containing regards for Hagouli Yacoub, Ezra Yacoub Fattal, Moshe Yacoub, Daoud Yacoub and Isaak Moshiyya, all of them Iranian citizens. All six were sentenced to three years at hard labor.

Menashi Mahlab was sentenced on June 28, 1949, to five years at hard labor for having received a letter from Palestine.

For the same reason, Ezra Musaffi was sentenced on March 26, 1949, to two years' hard labor.

Ezer Ezra, director of the Government Rafidain Bank at Kirkuk, was sentenced to two years at hard labor on January 24, 1949, and fined 500 dinars, for having received a letter from Palestine.

On the same day and for the same crime Nadhim Kirkukly was given a similar sentence and fined 5,000 dinars.

The Ades Judicial Murder

The most spectacular example of Iraq's

anti-Jewish "judicial" terror was the trial and hanging of Shafic Ades, a wealthy Basra merchant, who had settled in Iraq several years ago and through diligence and hard work had succeeded in amassing a great fortune. Part of this went to the Royal Treasury in the form of income taxes, and part went as voluntary donations to various Iraq institutions.

In March 1948, Ades contributed the sum of 300,000 dinars to the "Army of Liberation". That was not enough for the Government which wanted his entire fortune, and wanted it immediately. Continued failure of the Iraqi Army in Palestine had provoked considerable popular unrest, and the Government was looking for something to change the mood of the masses and to concentrate their attention on a domestic cause celebre. Ades was selected as the scapegoat. He was accused simultaneously of Communist and Zionist activities; he was charged with organizing and financing the Communist demonstrations and strikes in April, 1948 in order to incite public opinion against the Government and thus aid the Zionists in Palestine. The prosecution also charged that the defendant was "one of the leading founders and builders of the alleged Zionist State" and that he had repeatedly journeyed to Palestine to discuss with his colleagues in the Jewish Agency, of which he was allegedly a member, ways and means to secure the success of the Zionist cause. The high point of the prosecutor's charge was that the defendant had for several years been buying all types of arms, irrespective of price, and sending them to the Zionists.

The trial before the military court needed only three sessions, September 11, 12 and 13. There were twenty-four witnesses for the prosecution. All were heard; each one "confirmed all the accusations of the prosecutor, without a single contradiction." During the second session, the defendant's lawyer, Ali Mahmud el-Shachi-Ali, and his associates, asked that the defense witnesses be heard. After

deliberating, the court, which consisted of two military and two civilian judges, found that this request was aimed at stalling for time, that many of the witnesses had no connection with the case and some had fled the country, and it ruled that it would not hear any defense witnesses. The defense lawyers thereupon gave notice that they were withdrawing from the case. The judges advised the accused to defend himself or to procure new attorneys; Ades replied that he would not engage other lawyers and would not defend himself.

At the third and last session, the court unanimously sentenced Ades to be "hanged until dead." An indemnity of five million dinars, to be collected from the proceeds of Ades' property, was to be paid to the Ministry of Defense "in compensation for the damage on lives and property which he had caused to the Iraqi Army." The four hundred persons in the courtroom received the sentence with great enthusiasm, shouting and shrieking and clapping their hands.

An Englishman, one of the few Europeans who witnessed the execution of Ades on September 23, gives an appalling description of the scene:

"Ades was hanged in the courtyard of his own house in Basra. For days before the execution, which was declared a public holiday, thousands of Iraqis began streaming into Basra from all parts of the country. He was hanged at four in the morning, and by that time tens of thousands had collected in the neighborhood. There was an orchestra in the courtyard playing patriotic tunes. Even little children were gathered there. A special part was set aside for a number of Palestinian Arabs, wealthy men who had run away from Palestine and now go about claiming to be refugees. These were close

up to the gallows and they threw filth at Ades, mocking him even as the rope was put around his neck."

Pictures were taken of the execution and reproduced in newspapers not only in Iraq, but in other Arab countries as well. Al-Misre of September 28, 1948, carried a large picture of the body swinging on the rope, and Ahbar al-Yom, of September 25, showed Ades being led to the gallows by a group of armed soldiers.

Vicissitudes of the Government Policy

Several days after Ades' execution, the authorities arrested some sixty of the wealthiest Jews in the country, the heads of the Jewish communities, on charges of "Zionist leanings." Some four hundred additional Jews were later arrested and sent to concentration camps because they possessed property in Palestine and were suspected of transferring large sums of money to that country. It is reliably known that a number of those arrested, particularly the wealthier among them, were subsequently released without trial after paying huge bribes and ransoms.

In October 1948, there were indications that the fury was abating. The number of arrests diminished; some Jewish businesses were encouraged to resume operations; and a few minor Jewish officials were taken back into their old civil service posts. Optimistic observers expressed the hope that the Government was beginning to realize that it had carried matters too far for its own good and that the trend had turned toward less violence. Jews came out of their hiding places and shops began to reopen. In December, however, the persecution was resumed and arrests and arbitrary court judgments were almost as widespread as before. The elevation to the premiership of the pro-British politician,

Nuri as-Said Pasha, in January 1949, in no way improved the position of the Jewish community. Martial law still continues and no Jew feels secure from sudden arrest and heavy fine on the slightest pretext.

Early in October 1949, a new wave of persecution, accompanied by acts of brutality and cruelty, was reported. According to information received by the Government of Israel, on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), October 3, Iraq police invaded synagogue at Amara, south of Baghdad, and arrested ten of the worshippers, among them the chairman of the Community Council. None was informed of the charges against him. Three days later, five Jews were arrested in Baghdad and their houses ransacked; they were tortured to make them confess that they belonged to the Zionist movement and to the organization responsible for arranging the escape of Jews from Iraq. Other searches were made in Baghdad on October 12; scores were arrested and subjected to torture. Over a hundred people were sent to the Abu Grib camp, south of Baghdad, and some seventy others were held for investigation. Among those detained were the families of persons who are alleged to have succeeded in making their way to Israel.

The Government of Iraq has categorically denied Israeli charges that Iraq is persecuting and torturing Jews. Nevertheless, even Iraq sources admit that there have been some arrests. A British inspector in the Iraq Ministry of the Interior reported from Baghdad on October 26 that thirty-six Jews, including four women, were arrested by Iraq police in the past ten days during searches in which police authorities said they had discovered the existence of a Zionist organization and pamphlets produced in Tel Aviv bearing the title "Methods of Action". A different version was given by a Government spokesman in Baghdad who acknowledged, on October 27, that

forty Jews had been detained on a charge of "threatening peace and security after an assault on the chief rabbi, Sassoon Khedouri." "A number of Jews," he said, "had attacked and injured the rabbi and damaged the synagogue. The police had been compelled to detain the organizers to protect the rabbi's life."

IV. LET MY PEOPLE GO

The Emigration Trend

The urge of Iraq Jews to leave their homes was eloquently stressed in a communication addressed on January 15, 1946 to the Anglo-American Committee through the British Foreign Office. In this communication, the members of the Committee were begged to "rest assured that, if a plebiscite is made by you among the Iraq Jews, you will find that 100 per cent of them are anxious to emigrate from Iraq to Palestine, and none of them desire to stay in Iraq."

The Government Suppresses Emigration

The modest extent of the emigration to Palestine was largely a direct result of the Government's policy. Not only emigration, but even visits to Palestine were strictly forbidden. Jewish merchants were not allowed to visit Palestine, students were not permitted to attend Palestinian schools, religious leaders and "bona fide" pilgrims could not fulfill their vows and visit the Holy Land. On the passports of Iraq Jews "Not valid for travel to Palestine" was stamped. In the few cases when a Jew was given special permission to travel to Palestine, he was obliged to deposit 5,000 dinars (\$20,000) as a guarantee of his return to Iraq.

In 1946, the Iraq Administration refused to permit six Iraq Jewish girls who had married

Palestinians serving with the British Army in Baghdad to go to Palestine to join their husbands. The protest lodged by the Palestine Government was rejected; Iraq insisted that any outside intervention amounted to interference with her "sovereign rights."

The same uncompromising stand was taken by the Government to transit of Jews across Iraq territory. From the beginning of September, 1941, thousands of half-starved, ill-clad Polish-Jewish refugees began to make their way from Soviet Russia to Iran. Among them were five hundred children, most of them orphans, ranging in age from two to fifteen years, to whom the Palestine Government had granted immigration visas. The only direct route from Iran to Palestine is via Iraq, but the Iraq Government refused to grant the children transit visas. Representations by the British and United States Governments to Premier Nuri Said Pasha failed to affect a change in Iraq's position. The children had to be sent to Palestine by a long, roundabout route through the Persian Gulf and India.

This ban on the transit of Jews through Iraq territory surpassed in its racial discriminatory character even the practices of Nazi Germany which, during the first years of the Hitler regime, granted transit visas across the Reich to non-German Jews. In March 1947, Foreign Minister Ahmed el-Rawi even refused to permit Jews to fly from Palestine across Iraq. The Iraq Consulate in Jerusalem received instructions, dated March 19, 1947, that transit non-stop visas might be issued to Palestine nationals, provided they held tickets for a destination beyond Iraq, but: "Palestine Jews of any kind are to be excepted and are not to be granted an Iraq visa of any kind whatsoever, and are not to be carried by aircraft crossing Iraq under any circumstances."

Hermetically Sealed Doors

If the right of Jews to leave Iraq, either to

emigrate or on temporary visits abroad, has always been restricted, an absolute ban on such movements has been imposed after May 15, 1948. The prohibition applied even to children and students, and to dangerously sick people who required medical treatment not obtainable in Iraq. These had to go through several departments, each of which must give its approval; they must bribe officials all along the line; and if they were successful in obtaining a permit to leave, they had to leave a cash deposit of 3,000 dinars to guarantee their return.

Those who left before the restrictions were imposed were obliged to return or to pay the cash deposit and all Iraq consulates were instructed not to renew the passports of Iraq Jews without special authorization by the CID (Criminal Investigation Department).

On October 18, 1948, all Iraq Jews living outside the country were ordered to return by the end of the month, under threat that their property would be confiscated.

Emigration to Palestine became a capital offense and scores of Jews were arrested on suspicion of aiding other Jews to emigrate. In September, 1948, Ibrahim Hayim and Naftali Yacoub were sentenced to ten years' forced labor for "aiding to smuggle Jews to Palestine." On the same accusation, Naghi Zalach and Moshe Yaakob Zakai received (in absentia) a sentence of seven years' imprisonment with hard labor. For preparing Jews to escape, Naim Knadwil was sentenced to a fine of 500 dinars or one year in prison.

In August 1948, it was announced that all Iraq Jews who went to Palestine and did not return would be considered criminals who had joined the ranks of the enemy and would be tried by military courts in absentia. No distinction was made between those who

had gone to Palestine legally, before the hostilities between Iraq and Israel, and those who left clandestinely after May 1948; all the 1,332 Iraq Jews who went to Palestine between 1939 and 1945 automatically became "criminals." The Minister of the Interior, Tawfiq al-Nael, openly admitted in Parliament that the judgments in absentia were also against those Jews who had left the country legally. Since they had left through regular channels, the martial courts were able to obtain their names from the emigration officials. They were tried and given death sentences or many years of hard labor plus heavy fines. While death and jail sentences were of a symbolic rather than actual nature, the fines against those who had left behind some kind of property were quite tangible and supplied the Iraq treasury with very substantial amounts of money.

During a short period from February 4 to June 8, 1949, Arab press and radio announced the names of eighty-three Jews who were tried in absentia. Seventeen were condemned to death by hanging; sixty-six received prison sentences totalling 449 years; the sum total of fines imposed amounted to 79,000 dinars; and one defendant had his entire property confiscated.

The Iran Gateway

In a desperate attempt to escape from persecution, numbers of Jews have fled from Iraq and tried to reach Israel by way of neighboring Iran. The penalty which Iraq courts used to impose for such illegal border crossing was five to seven years' imprisonment with hard labor, although the official Iraq penal law limits the penalty for that type of offense to six months. But despite these severe punishments and the close watch on the Iraq-Iranian frontier, many Iraq Jews, ready to take any risk to escape from their miserable existence, have succeeded in crossing the border into Iran. On the Iranian

side of the frontier they had to pay a nominal fine for illegal entry and were then set free. A special Jewish organization established in Teheran was taking over the responsibility for the newcomers. 719 Iraq Jews have succeeded in making their way to Israel during the 15½ months period from May 15, 1948 to August 31, 1949.

... threatened

This relatively modest but steady trickle from Iraq has suddenly been interrupted late in November last when press reports indicated that the Iranian Government, which has only on June 24, 1949, concluded a mutual aid pact and trade and cultural agreements with Iraq, announced that, "as a reprisal for the ill-treatment of Iranian subjects in Iraq" (the number of Iranians in Iraq is estimated at 300,000), it decided to withdraw the permission given to some 1,500 Iraq nationals to stay in Iran; 1470 of those affected were Jews.

Hussein Ala, the Iranian Ambassador in Washington confirmed these reports but pointed out that the "retaliation move" was not aimed against Jews but against Iraq nationals living in Iran and that it was "only coincidental that the great majority affected were Jewish." He also stated that expelled Jews would not be forced to go back to Iraq but would be free to emigrate to Israel.

Jewish Reaction

This new development provoked energetic interventions on the part of various Jewish organizations in America and in Europe. The request was made that if the Jews involved must leave Iran, they should be granted reasonable time to settle their affairs. The Teheran Government acceded to this request. While the original expulsion order gave the Iraq nationals two weeks in which to leave the country, this period has been extended to between two and four months.

In Israel, competent Jewish authorities immediately announced their readiness to welcome all Iraq Jews threatened with expulsion. An official statement to this effect was made by an Israel Foreign Office spokesman. Itzhak Raphael, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, declared that the Agency was ready to provide planes and facilities for expediting the Jewish evacuation from Iran, if need should arise. He simultaneously revealed that more than 2,000 Jews have been evacuated from Iran to Israel by air recently; the operation has been carried out by large trans-oceanic skymaster planes carrying 60 passengers non-stop between Teheran and Lydda four or five times a week.

Clandestine Crossings Increase

In the meantime, the number of Jews leaving Iraq via Iran was continually increasing.

In January, 1950, Albion Ross cabled the New York Times from Khorramshahr on the Iran-Iraq border that "this crossing point for Iraq Jews leaving the country is getting a steadily heavier traffic" as the Jews in Baghdad, Basra and the adjoining southern areas "close out their affairs and prepare to leave the country." This sharp increase in illegal frontier crossings was encouraged by the lifting of martial law under which the punishment for anyone leaving Iraq illegally was extremely severe. Since the martial law was abolished, Jews suspected of the intention to leave the country and found near the frontier with no adequate explanation for their presence there were fined about 5 dinars (\$14). Those caught in the act were fined about 50 dinars. Albion Ross reported that a Jew made five escape attempts and was fined five times before a succeeded on the sixth attempt.

In Iran, Jews who headed for Israel were granted

exist visas on a "laissez passer," issued by the Iranian authorities. Some corrupt Iranian officials tried to use this as a means to demand heavy payment from the prospective emigrants. This abuse was, however, quickly discontinued after the Shah heard of it and issued stern instructions to stop it.

Iran's Generous Gesture

On February 13, 1950, Mohammed Saed Maraghai, Prime Minister of Iran, announced that in accordance with the nation's 6,000-year-old tradition of tolerance, Iran would maintain an "open door" policy for all religious and political refugees. He specifically stressed that

AMERICAN JEWISH
"the Iranian policy regarding those Jews who wish to take refuge in Iran or who wish to go to other places from Iran is based upon Iran's obligation to the United Nations. Therefore, for refugees of all countries, no matter what their nationality, race, or religion may be...there is no hindrance whatsoever to their passing through Iran to any country they wish."

The Palestine Post, Jerusalem English language daily, rightly stated that this announcement by the Iranian premier "will spell the difference between life and death to some thousands of Iraq Jews."

Doors Suddenly Opened

On March 3, the Iraq Chamber of Deputies has approved an emergency bill introduced by the Minister of the Interior Saleh Jabr which authorizes Iraq Jews to leave the country if they wish to. Jews taking advantage of this right automatically lose their Iraq nationality. The bill is valid for one year, but can be abrogated within this period by Royal decree.

In the Senate debate on the governmental proposal, Saleh Jabr argued that it was in the best interests of the country and would "provide the best method of solving the Jewish problem." The Senate passed the bill on March 4.

The usually well-informed correspondent of the London Times explained that the governmental proposal results from the movement for some months past of Jews to Iran in a large-scale smuggling operation. The new government (headed by Tawfik as-Swedi) decided it was best to allow disaffected Jews to leave and enable others - who are (according to the government's opinion) in the majority - to settle down. The correspondent added that the government "intends to restore to the (remaining) Jews at the earliest opportunity full rights as citizens" which had been "abrogated for security reasons during the Palestine conflict." This point was particularly stressed by the only Jewish member of the Senate, Ezra Menahem Daniel, who urged that the government accord equal rights to Jews who refused to emigrate and that the discriminatory restrictions imposed during the period of martial law be abolished.

What Shall Become of Jewish Property?

Commenting on the abrupt turn of the Iraq's policy towards the country's Jewish minority, a London Jewish Chronicle editorial stressed that

"the mere fact that the (Iraq) Government has decided to allow Jewish emigration is welcome news. It not only marks a reversal of earlier discriminatory policy but is also an indirect recognition of Israel as an independent country and a State to which the Jews of Iraq may properly be allowed to depart."

"What remains uncertain," continues the editorial, "and must cause apprehension is the manner in which this Jewish emigration will be conducted. Will the Jews be allowed to leave the country with their belongings? Will the Iraq Government tarnish its welcome decision by greed and try to enrich itself unlawfully by despoiling the Jews who go to Israel?" The Jewish Chronicle expressed the hope that

"having decided to allow emigration, the Iraq Government may wish to show real tolerance and humanity by letting the Jews leave not as penniless beggars with a curse for Iraq on their lips, but as people who may freely take their possessions which will enable them to start life anew on a dignified basis."

Very little definite is yet known on this score. The abortive offer of an Arab-Jewish exchange of population made in October last included a proviso allowing emigrating Jews to take along only personal and household property up to a maximum weight of 220 lbs. per person. In addition, they would have been allowed to take a few pounds as pocket money. At that time the Iraq scheme was based on the assumption that when the operation will be concluded, only a few hundred Jews would remain in Iraq, and these by special permission. The transferred Palestinian Arabs would be settled in the houses of the Jews who have left, which would become the property of the Iraq Government. The Government would also allocate to the refugees former Jewish shops and business concerns, and place them in the jobs vacated by the Jews.

The Transportation Problem

A second important question which remains open is the question of transportation. Israel and Iraq have no common frontier. Travel to Israel would

therefore have to be through Syria and Lebanon. The above mentioned Iraq plan developed in October last assumed that the Jews and their belongings would be transported by buses and trucks in large convoys through the Syrian desert to Jordan and thence into Israel. Several hundred buses and trucks should be specially mobilized for this operation and further hundreds of vehicles should be borrowed from the British Middle East Army.

It is unlikely that, with the present political alignment, Syria and Lebanon would allow the free passage of Jews through their territory. In that case a long and expensive roundabout route through Iran and Turkey would have to be chosen. The most sensible alternative to this would be direct sea passage from the Iraq port of Basra in the Persian Gulf to the new Israel port of Elath in the Gulf of Aqaba (via the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea) if the Iraq Government would agree to it. Evacuation by air, similar to the famous "Magic Carpet" operation which brought to Israel over 40,000 Yemenite Jews in 1949, would present tremendous difficulties in the case of Iraq:

a. The number of people involved will be at least twice as large as the number of Yemenites.

b. The Yemenite Jews have left their abodes and have trekked to Aden without any belongings. For the most part they possessed nothing but a single piece of clothing. Air transportation had to be provided for their emaciated bodies only. It is to be hoped that such will not be the case with Iraq's Jews and that they will be permitted to take with them at least a part of their movable possessions. These certainly could not be transported by air.

c. The average weight of a male adult Yemenite Jew as he arrived in Israel was 80 pounds. This enabled to transfer 125-145 passengers at every flight

instead of the usual 56, and the price the Joint Distribution Committee paid for each passenger flown to Israel amounted to \$97.00. Iraq Jews are supposed to have normal average weight and the planes would have to take the normal load of passengers which would necessarily make the per capita transport cost much more expensive.

The problem is even more complicated by the fact that the Iraq Government has not yet recognized Israel and that no direct diplomatic channels exist between the two countries. The Iraq authorities also refuse to deal with the Jewish Agency or even with the Joint Distribution Committee.

80,000 - 90,000 People: \$60,000,000 Cost

Jewish Agency officials expect that some 80,000-90,000 Iraq Jews will make use of the possibility to move to Israel within the allowed period of one year. However, since this permission can be cancelled by Royal decree at any moment, speediest evacuation is mandatory and must be carried out during the period April-December, 1950.

This completely dislocates the Jewish Agency's immigration program for 1950 which provided, within actual budget limitations, for the reception of 150,000 in 1950: 50,000 from the Arab states and 50,000 from countries behind the Iron Curtain: both of these categories were considered to have priority because of time limitations or dangers to the lives of Jews. The balance were "pressure cases" from North Africa and Western Europe.

The transportation, reception and absorption of the Iraq Jews in Israel will cost approximately \$60,000,000, according to Dr. George Josephthal, Director of the Jewish Agency Absorption Department in Jerusalem. The Jewish Agency is now confronted with the alternative of raising this amount over and

above its 1950 budget or cutting down immigration from North Africa and Europe.

Nevertheless, the Jewish Agency did not hesitate to announce that it is ready to face the challenge. On March 17, the Agency stated that, notwithstanding utter overcrowding of the reception camps, it was prepared to receive the first 20,000 Iraq immigrants at once by extending its present camp facilities. For the later arrivals, wooden huts would be set out in the Jerusalem Corridor, the Negev and in Galilee in time to accommodate them wherever there is room or room can be made.

The Government and the people of Israel are inspired by the same eagerness to welcome and accommodate the new wave of Iraq repatriates. Government experts are reported studying plans for their integration. Davar, mouthpiece of the strongest government party Mapai, declared on March 16 that the situation imposes a heavy responsibility on the state of Israel and on all Zionist and Jewish organizations throughout the world. The paper pointed out that this is an opportunity to save thousands of Jews from "oppressive exile" and that the short time allowed for the operation must not be wasted. The state of Israel must offer a haven to the Iraq Jews and the Jewish community of Israel and its Zionist bodies must do everything possible to overcome the difficulties in the path of their absorption in Israel, Davar added.

The absorption of Iraq Jews will not represent an easy task. They are almost exclusively urban dwellers with very little skilled elements. A rough estimate of the occupational structure of the about 30,000 family heads includes about 12,000 small artisans and storekeepers, 8,500 unskilled workers, 2,500 wholesale traders and 1,000 professionals.

American Jewry's Responsibility

The success of this tremendous undertaking is largely dependent upon the financial response of world Jewry, first and foremost of the American Jewish community.

Berl Locker, Chairman of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, directed a fervent appeal to Jews in countries outside of Israel to help bring the Iraq Jews to Israel.

Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, squarely formulated the issue at stake:

"Now that the exit doors of Iraq are about to be opened the great majority of Iraq Jews want to go to Israel...But Israel will not be able to welcome this tremendously increased number of immigrants without substantially larger funds from the United Jewish Appeal.

"What is needed now is a new airlift of human rescue such as the Operation Magic Carpet that succeeded in transferring 42,000 Jews from Yemen to Israel during the last six months. Unless we act promptly to provide funds for this new Operation Magic Carpet for the Jews of Iraq, they will be doomed to continue suffering and misery."

Mr. Morgenthau placed responsibility on American Jewry for determining "how many Iraq Jews will find new freedom in 1950."



AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

The United Palestine Appeal raises its funds for the immigration, resettlement and upbuilding programs of its constituent bodies, the Jewish Agency, the Palestine Foundation Fund and the Jewish National Fund, through the nationwide United Jewish Appeal campaign.

Issued by the UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL,
41 East 42nd Street,
New York 17, N. Y.

ADDRESS OF
HIS EXCELLENCY ABBA EBAN
AMBASSADOR OF ISRAEL TO THE
UNITED STATES
AT ECONOMIC CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MARCH 2, 1952

During these deliberations everyone has accepted without dissent the proposition that Israel must mobilize in the current calendar year a sum of \$375 million; and that this sum is about \$100 million in excess of revenues anticipated, if our efforts remain at their present level. There was general acquiescence in the fact that both our supply program and our investment program, amounting to this total of \$375 million have been assessed at a minimum basis and that we should not have any illusions that we can fall short of that level and safely survive and grow.

Perhaps the best way to appreciate if something is indispensable or not is to envisage the alternatives. What will happen if a sum of these dimensions is not mobilized during the coming year? There are two alternatives which must be frankly faced both by yourselves and by those you represent. The first possibility is that Israel, through lack of foreign currency, will not be able to meet its obligations, with a consequent collapse of its credit system. It is upon our credit system that we live. All States which are expanding their economy, which have greater import needs than productive capacity, must stand or fall by their ability to obtain credit to tide them over the lean years until their productivity increases. If our credit system were to collapse through failure to meet our obligations, either towards any government or towards any banking institution, then we should be reduced to the position of being able to purchase only such supplies and commodities as we could pay for in cash. The whole life of the country, its food and its fuel would depend upon precarious and intermittent cash receipts. The results of this alternative amount almost to collapse. They are not far different in kind

or in degree from the results of losing a war.

The second alternative, and perhaps the real one which we face, is that we shall manage to meet our minimal obligations, to feed the population and to provide its fuel supply, but that we shall do all this on so narrow a margin that nothing will be left over beyond the needs of mere survival. We shall simply eke out our existence. We shall not build. We shall not go an inch forward. We shall not raise our productivity. The gap between what we consume and what we produce will remain at its present alarming level. A spirit of weariness and disillusion will descend upon the population of Israel and upon the Jewish communities throughout the world, as they see our enterprise stuck down in this rut and the Israel people doing nothing more than merely survive. An atmosphere of dependence, of pauperization, of Levantinization, of resignation to low standards of living and culture will grip our society. The quality of the State will bear no resemblance whatever to the standards which we set before us. The whole historic enterprise which has evoked such tenacity and sacrifice throughout the last few years and, indeed, across the gulf of generations, may bring about one of the vast disappointments of all history.

Such, then, are the alternatives of not achieving this goal. They must not be envisaged. A sense of the indispensable urgency of the task, which I think was commonly recognized here, still has to be communicated in all the communities of the Jewish dispersion.

The second conclusion which I think was generally accepted was that when we survey all the alternatives whereby new and unexpected resources might accrue to the Israel treasury in foreign currency this year, we must bring our gaze to concentrate upon the Bond issue. There are fixed limits within which all the other enterprises seem to move. We have consulted with the leaders of the United Jewish Appeal. They have told us of their sanguine hope to provide a sum in the neighborhood of \$65 million. They

have responded to the suggestion that they may raise that impressive result by further and intensive effort. It is a magnificent result. They do not believe, however, that it will be realistic to assume in present circumstances that Israel can expect a sum very much in excess of \$65 million; I believe and they believe, that this achievement will mark another glorious chapter in the history of that agency.

We shall, of course, utilize to the full all our capacities to obtain governmental aid. We have spoken to you frankly of our expectations. They are high expectations under the forthcoming grant-in-aid. The Export Import Bank credits available this year are fixed by limits beyond our control. That does not mean to say that we shall not look about for all other avenues whereby we might lighten the burden that falls upon the Jewish community by enlarging our sources of governmental aid. There are some possibilities not yet fully explored. The Export Import Bank is entitled by its constitution to extend credits not only to governments but also to private concerns which can prove their capacity to earn dollars over the years. This requires examination. There are enterprises of a private category in Israel which might qualify for such credit. We should perhaps examine our possible relations with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. I would simply ask you to believe that whatever is possible to elicit from governmental sources is not neglected; it is being fully explored. Private investment was mentioned by many speakers in a very constructive sense. I accept the thesis that we have not exhausted our capacity to derive greater sums from this source. The success of the important enterprises established during the past year and a half constitute a good basis for making the American business community more aware of the vital need and urgency of private investment in Israel. Let us arrange to consult on private investment immediately. We come down, not through any preference or choice, but by the harsh facts of elimination, to the Bond drive as the only avenue which I describe as being

capable of instant and dramatic expansion in time to affect our position in the year 1952.

I believe that you should tell your communities quite frankly why it is that you and we regard the bond campaign as possessing this exceptional elasticity. The first reason is its youth. It is the nature of young things to grow. Nothing organic develops its full stature in the first year of its life. The Bond issue is a living and organic thing. It does not even have a full calendar year of uninterrupted existence behind it. Moreover, it has scratched only the surface of its potentiality.

Another reason why we think there can be great expansion is that we do not believe that the basic message of the Bond issue is yet properly understood. We have not carried into the community a conviction in favor of the Bond issue as a genuine investment capable of being paid off through the predictable revenues which Israeli agriculture and industry will earn, not indeed within one year, two years, or three years, but certainly well within the period during which the present Bond issue will mature.

We have a great story to tell which has only just begun to re-echo in our councils. It is the story of potential production. Phosphate rocks and other minerals have existed, geologists will tell us, for millions of years. The existence of these things does not by itself assure any advantages for anyone. The Dead Sea has been rich in mineral products for millions of generations. It is only the provision of machines in the hands of men determined to make these materials a source of wealth--this alone revivifies what are otherwise completely static products. Therefore, on the one hand, there is the vast problem and burden; on the other hand, there is the great potentiality, if the spirit of investment will prevail. We have no doubt whatever that if we can somehow communicate this message just as we once communicated the equally revolutionary messages of Jewish Statehood and Jewish military survival, a great transformation will come about. If American Jews really begin to believe in the repayment possibilities of the Bond, then they will purchase bonds not merely out of current capital, but out of fixed

assets in the full faith and knowledge that they will be returned.

I strongly advocate intensified efforts to get people to visit Israel. We are not ashamed of our difficulties. There never have been any other States which in the fourth year of their existence after their revolution showed lesser austerity. You can read the history of mankind and you will not find any comfortable revolutions. If our visitors will come to Israel with a sense of historic perspective, I believe that the very austerities and difficulties and hardships which they will see will be fully understood and will strengthen their determination, and not weaken it.

There is a question of the relationship of the welfare fund and of the Bond Campaign. There is only one attitude which the Government of Israel can take. It is an attitude of positive assistance to both of these great enterprises. If the Welfare Funds call upon us to assist them, to promote them, to sponsor them, to develop their results to the full, then we shall gladly and proudly respond.

The same is true, of course, of the Bond issue, which is a strictly Israeli enterprise, engaging our destiny and responsibility in the most direct sense.

The subject of public relations has been mentioned. I have been long enough in this country to understand the sanctity of that phrase. I bow my head humbly before the supreme authority of public relations. But in our case, what does public relations mean? Public relations mean that you secure public support for your objective; you do not sacrifice your objective in order to win better public relations.

In political terms, we would have enjoyed vast support and sympathy in the United States a few years ago by not promulgating the awkward project of a Jewish State -- Federalism, Jewish minority -- these would have won us vast support in this country and throughout the British Commonwealth. We would have been the fair-haired boy of the international community. Instead of this we established our objective, and we fought for it; and public relations meant to make people believe in our objective and to support it. That is what public relations means here. Specifically, it means that if the Council of Welfare Funds and Federations

have the idea that the Israel Bond issue should lie down and sleep, or if the Bond Issue believes that the UJA should not function at full speed, public relations does not mean accepting such demand. Public relations means persuading people to change their viewpoint. We have all changed many viewpoints before; and that is our objective; to transform negative ways of thought into the councils of positive action.

Can I utilize the discretion of this meeting to say something frank about the Council of Jewish Welfare Federations?

It is true that Israel has benefitted enormously by the work of these federations; let me do them every honor. But the benefit has not been unilateral.

Welfare Federations, with their particular responsibility for local social and educational institutions have, through the galvanizing magic of Israel, through the influence and the prestige of this momentous event, acquired receipts far beyond their previous capacity as a result of their fruitful alliance with Israel's cause. We do not regret that result. We cherish it. In the long run, a love of Israel will not come out of a community whose educational, religious, cultural and social institutions are weak or undermined. Love and support for Israel will only come out of a consciously Jewish community. So there is absolutely nothing contradictory in that alliance. The fact is, however, that the Council of Jewish Welfare Federations have benefitted in all their work so much by their alliance with Israel that they should not exercise a veto upon Israel when it seeks to supplement its resources by another channel under the irresistible pressure of need.

I am quite prepared to meet the Council of Jewish Welfare Federations to explain the inescapable facts of this \$100 million deficit, to explain why we cannot be content with existing levels; and why -- not in a spirit of disputation or of ill will -- but out of a real concern for the Jewish future, we are forced to a dual effort which of itself we would not have welcomed. Let us explain to them why we are forced to make this supplementary effort in full intensity. They

have understood us before. They will understand us again.

We must do everything reasonable to mitigate avoidable clashes, but duality, with everything it entails, is imposed upon us by necessities far greater and far wider than the admitted virtues of communal harmonies. I suggest that instead of describing the attitudes of communities as though they were fixed and immutable, a result of this meeting is that 100 people or two hundred people who were here should go back to their communities and bring the impact of their influence in favor of modifying those policies: Then by all means let there be unified command and conciliation, but on the basis of perpetual movement by both of these enterprises and not by the subordination of one to another.

From this meeting one of the conclusions should be a determined effort to recapture very quickly the time lost and to convert existing Bond commitments into cash. That is in itself an extremely positive message. I doubt, however, that it necessarily involves the negative course of not also going forward to obtain new commitments.

The central fact which I would ask you to take back is that the dual operation of these two enterprises, whatever are the adverse results, does yield this conclusion. Both of them moving together produce a far greater revenue than either of them can possibly expect alone.

Therefore, every kind of realism forces us to the central objective of meeting the Israel balance of payments, of accepting the yoke of duality with all its irritations, limiting them as much as we can. Above all, you must paint somehow the picture of Israel as it can be, a country of some two or three million people, 20 per cent rooted in the soil, the rest earning productive living by industry, by technical pursuits, by commerce, by transportation, and building a truly free and proud society. When you look above the elements of individual hardship, everything points to the utter practicality of that proposal. There is nothing mystical about it. Israel has proved itself to be the land of infinite impossibilities; and even if we were told that this dream of economic

independence were impossible, we might reply that we heard that one before in other circumstances and of other categories of our aspiration. The fact is that Israel grows more food, not less, than it did. It produces more manufactured goods and not less. It has a greater labor force and not a smaller labor force. It has more roads, not less roads; more power, not less power. Even the practical criteria which argue in favor of a secure investment, each one of them is present, and the problems of the country, however great their individual impact, should not be allowed to obscure the general tendency of development and growth.

My final word to you: this next month, we shall be celebrating the fourth anniversary of Israel's birth. It is perhaps a good occasion to contemplate again the full meaning and significance of this revolutionary event which has come upon Jewish life, bringing with it these hosts of challenging problems. They are the problems produced by success. Every success in life creates greater problems than existed before it was achieved. If we had failed to defend and establish our state, we should not be worried about responsibilities, about a balance of payments.

Therefore, all the problems that we face are the results of a triumphant victory. This was the first collective enterprise of the Jewish people in modern times, the first test of its virtues. If you have given to us much assistance for our political strength and for our economic consolidation, I believe there are things which Israel has given to you, things more precious than any words can describe. We have given you a new appraisal of the qualities of the Jewish people. We have given shelter to 700,000 of our dispossessed brethren. Seven years ago we were impotent to save 700 children from the gas chambers in Hungary. Today we have been potent to rescue 700,000 within a period of a few years. What matchless strength has suddenly been injected into the Jewish people by this magic concept of Statehood!

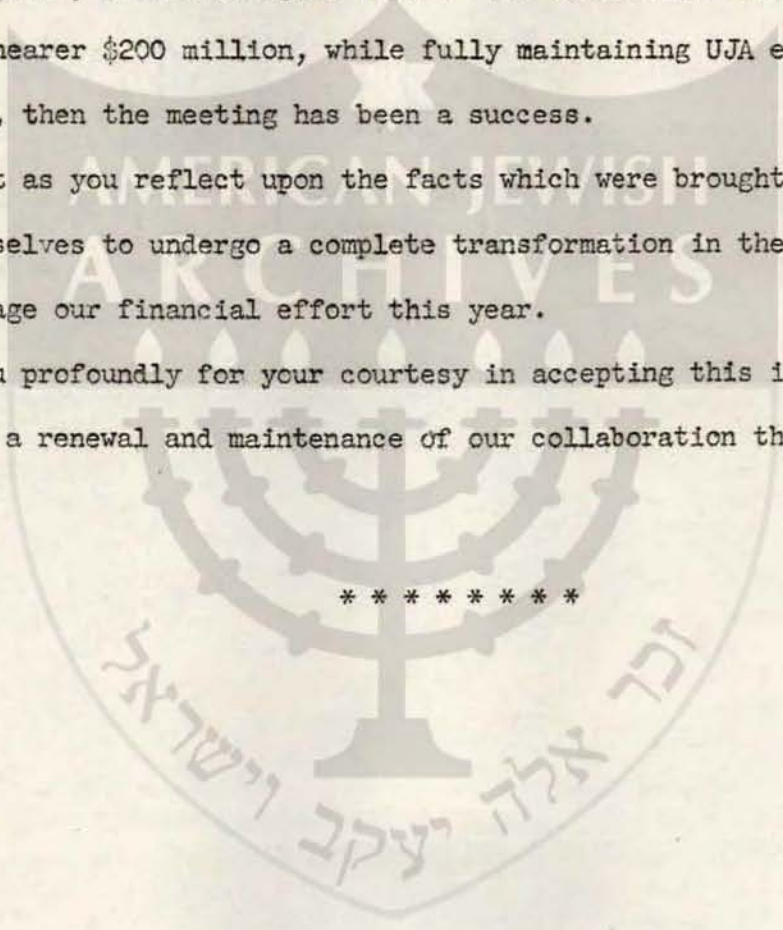
Therefore, what you are being called upon to do engages our credit and repute. An unsuccessful Jewish State would undermine the credit and security and

prestige of the Jewish people just as much as a successful state of Israel would enhance and exalt our credit, our repute and our prestige. It is in that spirit that I would like you to take away your impressions of this conference. The success or failure of it can be very simply and crudely analyzed. When you came to Washington yesterday you all thought of the bond proceeds for this calendar year in terms of \$100 million. Perhaps you thought that was a vast expectation. If you are going away from Washington with a firm conviction that you must now think in terms nearer \$200 million, while fully maintaining UJA efforts and increasing them, then the meeting has been a success.

I hope that as you reflect upon the facts which were brought before you, you will allow yourselves to undergo a complete transformation in the dimensions in which you envisage our financial effort this year.

I thank you profoundly for your courtesy in accepting this invitation and look forward to a renewal and maintenance of our collaboration throughout the coming year.

* * * * *



UJA

ISRAEL'S FOURTH ANNIVERSARY AND THE UJA

1. American Jews through the UJA have for over a decade supplied the free dollars which enabled hundreds of thousands to escape lands of persecution and danger, to reach Israel, and ultimately to establish Israel as an independent nation.
2. The success of UJA has been indispensable to Israel, and continues to be vital to the new state's progress.

Since 1948, American aid to Israel through UJA has totalled \$277,795,000.

These funds have enabled 700,000 newcomers to reach Israel since its establishment as a nation, and to make possible initial steps in their absorption.

But Israel has received immigrants faster than the country has been able to absorb them. This has resulted in food shortages, housing shortages, and underproduction. Aid from America through the UJA is essential to help Israel overcome these difficulties, provide homes and opportunity for Israel and realize the productive potential of its citizenry.

In the words of Prime Minister Ben Gurion, "All over Israel -- in its towns, villages, fields, factories, in the very desert -- the healthy influence of that noble instrumentality called UJA has been felt."

Here are some of the ways in which UJA funds, expressing the will of American Jewry, have helped the homeless reach Israel and helped Israel to end their homelessness:

The United Israel Appeal, principal UJA member agency, since the date of Israel's independence, has been allocated \$216,500,000.

From 1948 to the present day, the United Israel Appeal has made possible:

- 288 agricultural settlements
- 124 ma'abaroth (temporary work villages)
- 125,000 housing units for newcomers

The United Israel Appeal has also added thousands of cultivable acres to the resources of the new country, through irrigation, and reclamation, planting of new forests, drainage of swamps.

The sum of \$216,500,000 has been spent by the United Israel Appeal for immigration and settlement programs.

Of this sum, \$119,182,000 has been expended on agricultural programs alone!

- In 1949, UJA spent \$28,145,000 on agriculture in Israel.
- In 1950, UJA spent \$37,786,000 for this purpose.
- In 1951, UJA spent \$53,251,000 for agriculture.

In other words, each year has seen an increase in amounts spent for this pivotal purpose.

Allocations to the Joint Distribution Committee from UJA for expenditures in Israel since 1948 have included \$45,100,000 for immigration between 1948 and the end of 1950; and \$13,750,000 for the JDC-operated Malben program for care of aged and handicapped newcomers.

Since the end of 1950, the United Israel Appeal has been responsible for the programs of transferring newcomers from other lands to Israel. The combined total of immigrants brought to Israel by the JDC and UIA since 1948 is 700,000.

These 700,000 new citizens of Israel had nowhere else to turn. Through UJA American Jewry saved their lives, made possible the greatest homecoming in history.

Now, in 1952, it is necessary for UJA to help Israel turn that great homecoming into a great home making.

In Israel, the children are the future, and the concern of Israel for the education of the rising generation is easily grasped from the figures recently released concerning school enrollment.

Since 1948, enrollment in Israel's schools increased from 97,000 to 260,000 at the beginning of the school year 1950-51...in other words, an increase of about 260,000 in less than three years.

It has been a valiant struggle for Israel's educational system to keep up with the population's rapid growth. Compulsory education is required for children aged 5 to 13 and for youths aged 14 to 17.

At the current rate of immigration (about 200,000 a year) it is estimated that the total number of Israel's pupils in 1954 will be more than half a million.

Schooling of immigrant children starts with their arrival in Israel. In the immigrant, reception and transition camps of Israel there are 10,500 Jewish children attending school today.

3. Israel is now fighting its Second War of Independence--economic independence in 1952. In 1948, American Jews gave \$150,000,000 to the UJA to help Israel win its war of liberation. This year UJA has set a goal of \$151,500,000 -- in order to help Israel achieve economic survival and freedom.

At the same time, UJA funds must make possible the transfer of 120,000 additional newcomers from parts of Europe and the Moslem world where each day mounting tensions and unrest make the need for their rescue more acute.

To turn the "homecoming" into the "home making" means to build up, to strengthen the new state's economy--especially its agricultural economy. It calls for decent shelter, sufficient food, and opportunity to make each life--in every home--productive and worth living.

Here are some typical expenditures that will be made out of UJA funds in 1952 for typical items:

\$5.00 for a pair of shoes for an immigrant girl.

\$10.00 for 30 grams of streptomycin for a hospital patient.

\$50,000 to care for 500 Malben patients for one month.

\$3,000 for a small farm and home for an immigrant family.

American Jews, through the UJA, have achieved miracles in the reconstruction of human life and in helping the dream of Israel to become a reality.

But while we are rejoicing in the fact of Israel's fourth year of existence, it is necessary that we assure the future of those we have saved by renewed support of UJA now.

While 200,000 immigrants still live in tents and shacks in Israel, our job is not yet done.

While production, hard hit by drought and floods, makes it necessary for Israel to continue importing food, our rejoicing must be tempered by reflection and resolve to increase our gifts this year.

Israel's agricultural development is basic to its hopes for progress and UJA funds are basic to Israel's agricultural development.

While the sick wait for hospital beds in Israel, and the shortage of medical supplies hampers the curing of thousands of sick, we cannot let up in our efforts.

At this season of celebration, we must renew our resolve to equal and if possible to surpass the great fund raising record of 1948, when we raised \$150,000,000 for UJA in America, by raising, in 1952, the full goal of \$151,500,000 to

1. build 100 new settlements in Israel
2. expand and develop the 396 settlements already in existence
3. construct 21,000 housing units
4. establish and develop 22,000 anti-austerity farm units to ease shortages
5. bring thousands of new acres under cultivation
6. help 120,000 additional homeless Jews reach Israel
7. maintain a lifeline of aid to 250,000 in other lands and
8. help in the resettlement of 8,500 who will come to the U.S. and other democracies of the Western hemisphere before this year is over.

In the words of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, "What we set our hands to do in love and faith and high enthusiasm, we shall complete in self-respect and loyalty and honor."