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# PALESTINE AFFAIRS

A Monthly Magazine on Palestine and The Middle East

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## Armistice—Second Chapter: Lebanon, Transjordan

By Benjamin Shwadran

### Lebanon

OF ALL the Arab League member-states which went to war with Israel, Lebanon—precariously balanced between a Moslem and Christian population—was the most reluctant. Originally an autonomous Christian area,<sup>1</sup> Lebanon emerged from the mandatory status as an independent republic with a slight Christian majority which is in constant fear of being overwhelmed by Moslem pressure from inside its own borders as well as from the neighboring Moslem countries. The Christians, particularly the Maronites, were in no way anxious that Lebanon should extend her territory since that would result in an increase in the number of Moslems, which would give them control and eliminate the Christian character of the Lebanon. They feared entanglement in Arab alliances, but under the force of circumstances, the Government joined the Arab League and later became part of the Arab front against Israel. To be sure, Lebanon's military contribution to the invasion of Palestine did not consist of more than token forces which were not at all decisive in the actual struggle.

The economic consequences of the war were no less serious. Of all the neighboring Arab states, Lebanon was economically closest connected with Jewish Palestine. The country's two main industries—fruit raising and tourism—found their most ready market in Jewish Palestine. When the Arabs declared a boycott against the Jews in 1946, the latter stopped importing Lebanese fruits and vacationing on Mount Lebanon. As a consequence, Lebanon's postwar economic difficulties became

more acute and pressure was soon exerted on the Government by economic interests to lift the boycott, a step the Government dared not take because of its fear of the Arab League. The conflict with Israel further depleted the country's meager financial resources. Then, into the steadily deteriorating situation, came the influx of Palestine Arab refugees. The same Arabs for whom the Lebanese were fighting refused to participate in the struggle and became a burden on the Lebanese economy.

In November, 1948, in Israel's great sweep against Fawji el Kawukji's irregular forces in northern Galilee, Israeli forces gained control of some fifteen Lebanese villages. When the whole Arab war against Israel began to collapse at the end of the year, Lebanon was eager to conclude an early armistice. Because, however, of its delicate position in the Arab League, and because of the peculiarities of Oriental bargaining, this could be done only indirectly. Unofficial armistice talks between representatives of Israel and Lebanon were held all during the months of December and January, and it was even

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<sup>1</sup> See "The Republic of Lebanon," *Palestine Affairs*, 109-114, Nov., 1947.



reported to United Nations officials that actual conferences had been held at Ras en Naqura, a village on the Lebanese-Israeli frontier.

Soon after the Egyptian-Israeli armistice negotiations began on the island of Rhodes, Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, the acting UN Mediator, sent his legal representative, Constantin Stavropoulos, to Beirut and Amman to sound them out about accepting invitations to join in armistice negotiations. So delicate was the situation that several times Dr. Bunche had to deny reports that he had actually extended invitations to Lebanon and Transjordan. Nevertheless, it appeared in the middle of January that Lebanon was ready to comply with the Security Council's November 16 resolution and enter into armistice negotiations with Israel. She made one condition: that Israel clear all Lebanese territory.

Israel, on the other hand, was not entirely willing to discuss an armistice for two reasons: Lebanon held some Israeli territory on the border near Ras en Naqura; and since supplies to Mishmar Hayarden, in Israel, which the Syrians held, could only go through Lebanon, Israel wanted Lebanon to press Syria to evacuate the Jewish settlement before she would give up control of the Lebanese villages. As an indication of her good faith, however, she turned over to Lebanon four of the villages.

The delicacy of the situation and the complications which confronted the negotiators are illustrated by the following facts. On January 17, it was reported from Tel Aviv that an initial parley with Lebanese representatives had produced complete agreement on all military issues. The following day, official UN sources insisted that Lebanon had not been invited to discuss an armistice with Israel. Nonetheless, meetings between Lebanese and Israeli representatives were taking place almost daily at Ras en Naqura. The slow progress of the negotiations between Egypt and Israel put a damper on the Israeli-Lebanese talks and the informal meetings dragged on indecisively until February 20. It was not until Dr. Bunche sent an official invitation to Lebanon, and the invitation was officially accepted, that negotiations started in earnest, under the chairmanship of Henri Vigier, political adviser to Dr. Bunche. The meetings, the first of which took place on March 1, alternated between the Lebanese side of the boundary and the Israeli side.

The main difficulty appears to have been Israel's request that Syria at least join as a party in the discussions. On the 7th, the meetings were adjourned for three days. On the 10th, it looked as if a draft armistice had been agreed on, but again the conference adjourned, this time for five days, in order to enable the delegations to consult with their governments. On the 20th, the agree-

ment was finally initialed, and three days later, it was officially signed, by Lieutenant Colonel Mordecai Makleff for the Government of Israel, Lieutenant Colonel Tewfiq Salim for the Government of Lebanon, and Brigadier General William E. Riley and Henri Vigier for the United Nations.

### *The Lebanese-Israeli Armistice*

The agreement consists of a preamble and eight articles. The preamble declares that the parties entered into negotiations in compliance with the Security Council resolution of November 16. Both parties pledge themselves not to resort, during the armistice, to military force in the settlement of the Palestine question, to undertake or plan aggressive action against the other, while each will respect the right of the other to its security and freedom from fear of attack. The military character of the armistice is emphasized, and it is specifically noted that "no provision of this Agreement shall in any way prejudice the rights, claims and positions of either Party hereto in the ultimate peaceful settlement of the Palestine question."

The armistice demarcation line follows the international boundary between Lebanon and Palestine. Thus no changes were made and neither side lost or gained territory. In the region of the demarcation line, only defensive military forces are to be maintained. Provision is made for a full and complete exchange of prisoners of war. A mixed armistice commission of seven members—three Lebanese, three Israelis and a senior UN official, with headquarters near the boundary between the two countries, is to supervise the execution of the agreement.

The agreement, which is not subject to ratification and enters into force immediately upon signing, "shall remain in force until a peaceful settlement between the Parties is achieved."

### **Transjordan<sup>2</sup>**

From the very beginning of the invasion of Palestine, it was evident that King Abdullah of Transjordan stood to gain most from the war. Not only was his Arab Legion, the best of all the Arab armies, in the very heart of Arab Palestine, but in any final solution of the problem, he would be in a position to annex to his kingdom whatever territory his forces held at the time of decision. In such an eventuality, Abdullah knew that he would be strongly supported by the British who, in consideration

<sup>2</sup> See *Palestine Affairs*, "Transjordan—Mandate or Independent State," 1-4, Apr., 1946, and "More Independence for Transjordan," 37-40, Apr., 1948.



of their own interest, wished to see his power and territory extended. It would have been desirable, therefore, for Transjordan to reach an understanding or armistice with Israel as quickly as possible.

There were clear indications from time to time during the conflict that Abdullah was about to declare himself king of Arab Palestine. This would, of course, have implied acceptance of the existence of the Jewish State. But before he dared translate this ambitious plan into action, he had first to contend with a hostile Arab world. The Arab League had been suspicious of Abdullah and his intentions even before the outbreak of the war with Israel. Ever since Transjordan had signed treaties of alliance with Great Britain, first in 1946 and again in 1948,<sup>3</sup> League member-states had considered him an agent of British imperialism, and his loyalty to the League questionable. He was deterred from taking decisive steps, although the general groundwork had been carefully laid in Jericho, Hebron and Ramallah, and he marked time, awaiting further developments. It is also possible that his British advisers felt that the Arabs might still defeat Israel and that all of Palestine might yet fall into his hands. Nevertheless, Abdullah feared that there might be a quick break-up of Arab Palestine, in which the other Arab countries would try to grab as much as they could for themselves, and he put out feelers for possible peace negotiations with Israel. Thus, even before the Security Council passed the November 16 resolution, conversations were going on between the Israelis and the Transjordanians.

Then came the debacle in the Negev. The only Arab army that could have come to the assistance of the Egyptians was the Arab Legion, but Abdullah preferred to keep at a safe distance and let Egypt fight it out alone with the Israelis and lose the battle. Egypt then jumped ahead of Abdullah and declared herself ready to enter into armistice negotiations with Israel. In these negotiations, Egypt had two objectives: to salvage whatever she could from the war, even to the minimum of the small coastal strip from Rafah to Gaza; and to prevent Abdullah from annexing the part of the Negev which had been assigned to Arab Palestine by the UN partition resolution.

Abdullah realized that by procrastinating he had missed the opportunity to obtain concessions from Israel, that the longer he delayed, the less he was likely to obtain. Apparently it was the British who had advised him to hold out as long as he could, and by way of compensation for possible losses, it may be that they promised

<sup>3</sup> Transjordan was the only Arab country to conclude such a treaty; Iraq and Egypt refused to do so.

to obtain at least part of the Negev for him and an outlet through the Negev to the Mediterranean.

On January 30, after having received an official invitation from the UN acting Mediator, Abdullah announced that he was ready to enter into armistice negotiations with Israel. To make sure that he would be able to keep a watch on the other members of the Arab League, he called on them to join him in the negotiations; not one replied, and on February 8, only Transjordan's acceptance was received by Dr. Bunche. The Israeli delegates at Rhodes showed neither enthusiasm nor eagerness to enter into formal talks with Abdullah; they were in the midst of conferences with Egypt which were dragging on, and before they assumed any new responsibilities, they wanted to see the outcome of the Egyptian negotiations.

Finally, on the 4th of March, the representatives of Transjordan and Israel met in Rhodes—in a decidedly cool atmosphere. The issues before them were: the Latrun section of the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway; the Jerusalem water supply pumping station at Latrun; access to the holy places in the Old City; the supply of electricity to the Old City; access to the Mount of Olives; access to and movement on Mount Scopus; the Jerusalem-Jaffa railroad; the Jerusalem-Bethlehem highway; the Jenin-Tulkarm-Nablus triangle held by Iraqi forces; and the eastern Negev.

Before the discussions began, Abdullah indicated that his delegation would also act on behalf of Iraq, but when verification of this statement was asked of Iraq, there was no reply. It soon became obvious, however, that Iraqi forces in the triangle were slowly withdrawing and that their positions were being taken over by Transjordanian forces. Israel protested against this, asserting that it was a violation of the truce by which Transjordan was improving her position.

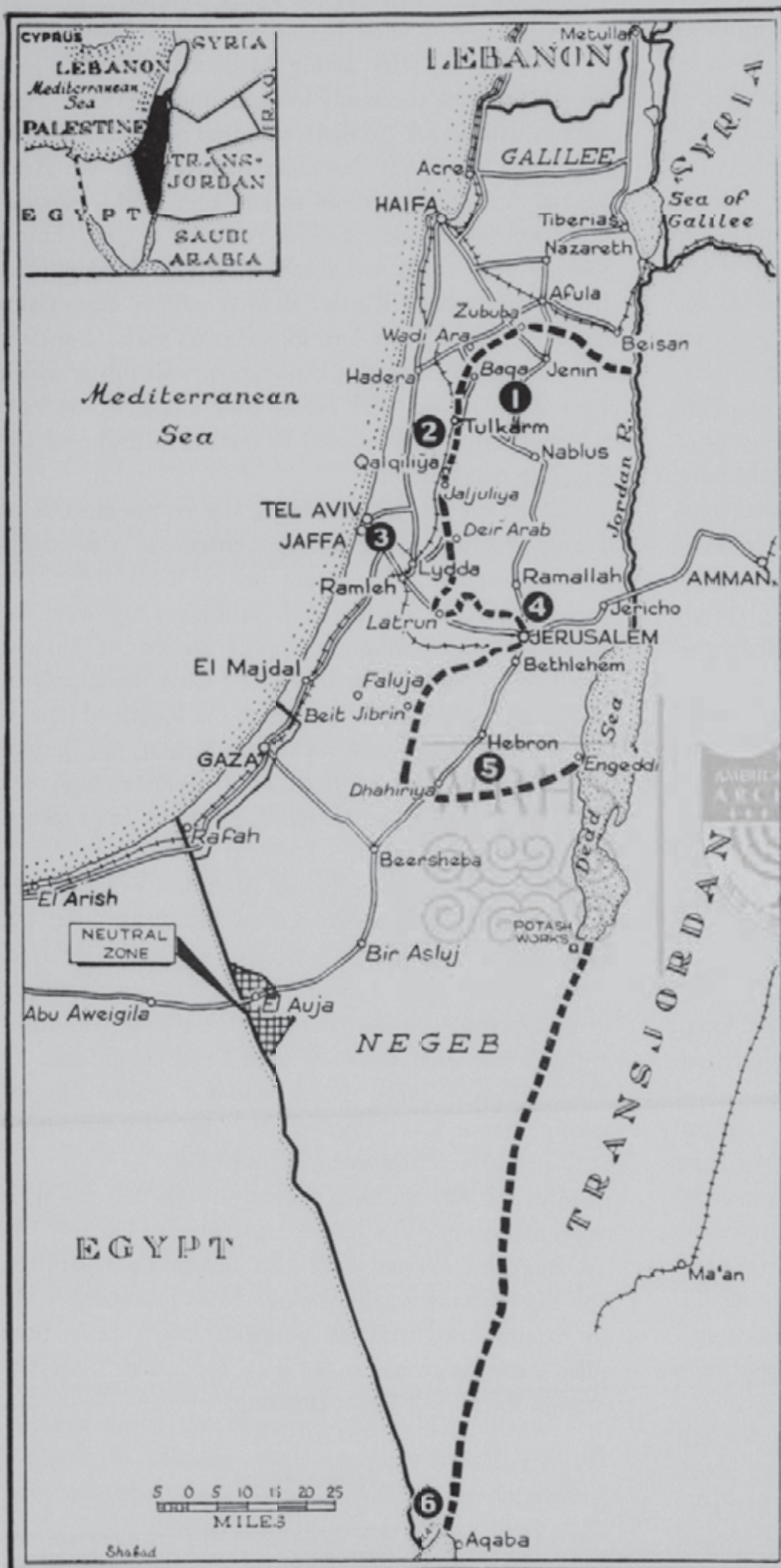
After the first meeting, the negotiators left for their respective capitals for further instructions. On the 7th, Dr. Bunche conferred with each delegation separately. The negotiations would perhaps have proceeded without complication and an armistice might have been quickly concluded had it not been for renewed interference on the part of Great Britain.

#### *Affaire Aqaba*

It would appear that even after the incident on the Egyptian border when two British fliers were shot down by Israeli forces,<sup>4</sup> and even though she had recognized

<sup>4</sup> See "The Beginning of the End," *Palestine Affairs*, 3-6, Jan., 1949.





Courtesy of The New York Times

The broken line is an approximation of the military demarcation set forth in the agreement between Israel and Transjordan. The Arabs retain control of the Nablus-Jenin-Tulkarm triangle (1), but Transjordanian troops will replace the Iraqis there. To the northwest, the Arabs will withdraw from the Hadera-Afula road. They also will pull back to permit the Israelis to use the route between Tulkarm and Qalqiliya (2). Rail and highway traffic is to move freely between Tel Aviv (3) and Jerusalem (4), and the pumping station at Latrun, southeast of Tel Aviv, will again supply water to Jerusalem. The Bethlehem highway, running southward from Jerusalem, also will be opened. In the Hebron-Dead Sea area (5) the former truce line will be modified in favor of Transjordan. According to one report, the Israelis will be permitted to maintain strong forces near Aqaba (6).



Israel—*de facto* only, to be sure, but still recognition—Britain still had hopes of obtaining the Negev, or at least part of it, for Transjordan. One cannot escape the impression that the British deliberately accused Israel on several occasions of "violating" Transjordan's boundary in order to justify their sending of reinforcements and thus strengthening Abdullah's position. The fact that such reinforcements were sent after May 29 was a clear violation of the Security Council's resolution of that date which "calls upon all Governments and authorities to undertake that they will not introduce fighting personnel into Palestine, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Trans-Jordan and Yemen during the cease-fire," and "calls upon all Governments and authorities concerned to refrain from importing or exporting war material into or to Palestine, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Trans-Jordan or Yemen during the cease-fire."

On December 8, Harold Beeley, the British representative in the Security Council, charged that Israel had violated Transjordan's boundary. The fact that Transjordan had not complained of such a violation either to the Security Council or to Great Britain and that Dr. Bunche, who had been in Amman on the 7th, had heard of no such violation from Transjordan or from any other source did not deter the British. They were determined to send reinforcements to Transjordan and on January 4, they officially informed the United States State Department that they were sending combat troops to Aqaba. The next day it was reported from London that as a precaution against Israeli incursions, a detachment of British troops had been dispatched to Aqaba, an action which the British justified under the terms of their Treaty of Alliance with Transjordan. The Israeli Government protested to the United Nations that the landing of British troops in Aqaba was a hostile act. This was countered two weeks later by Christopher Mayhew, Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, who declared in the House of Commons that the action was "wise and necessary" and that it in no way conflicted with the Security Council's resolutions.

In the November 29 partition resolution of the United Nations, the eastern Negev, including the coastal strip on the Gulf of Aqaba between Transjordan and Egypt, was included within the Jewish State, and ever since May 14, 1948, when the State of Israel was proclaimed, Israeli mobile units had been patrolling the area. Early in March of this year, a number of Israeli patrols were moving in the direction of this coastal strip along the Wadi Arabah road. Transjordan's delegation at Rhodes immediately began to complain to the acting Mediator

that Israeli forces were engaged in military operations in the southern Negev. On March 10, Transjordan complained of "military operations against Arab Legion in Wadi Arabah." She declared that "Israeli forces were attacking Arab Legion positions with tanks and armored cars;" and day after day reports of clashes between Israeli and Transjordanian forces continued to arrive at Rhodes. In formal notes to Dr. Bunche, Israel denied all the accusations; she asserted emphatically that at no point south of the Dead Sea had Israeli forces moved beyond the frontier; that no Israeli forces had attacked Transjordan positions or patrols; that Israeli units had encountered a mobile Arab Legion patrol west of Gharandal on the Palestine side of the frontier and that this patrol had fired a few rounds and moved away, the fire not being returned by the Israelis. Dr. Bunche's report to the Security Council on March 12, in which he noted that he had dispatched observers to the area in an effort to obtain further information, described the situation thus: "The area involved is one in which there has been little or no fighting in the past. There are no fixed fighting lines and the military positions held by the two forces are not defined. Military movement in the past has been confined entirely to small scale patrol activity."

At this point, the British Government called in Israel's representative in London and warned him against any attempt by Israeli forces to attack Aqaba. Although the Israeli representative, as well as the Israeli Foreign Minister, gave assurances that Israel had no intention of entering Transjordan territory, the British were determined to reinforce further their garrison in Aqaba. On the 12th, the British War Office announced that the garrison was being strengthened in view of the presence of Israeli troops in the vicinity; on the 13th, the British ship *Magpie*, carrying armored vehicles and other reinforcements, arrived at the port of Aqaba and the crew took up battle stations.

The accusations against Israel continued to grow louder and bolder. On March 14, it was claimed that some three thousand Israeli troops were in Elath, a tiny strip on the Gulf of Aqaba, in Israeli territory. Dr. Bunche could verify that in all there were only about a hundred and fifty Israelis in the area, and that they were all concentrated at Umm Rashrash, the police station on the coast which had been evacuated by Arab Legion officers before the Israelis arrived. On the following day, British tanks, a battalion of Royal Marine commandos and a brigade headquarters were landed in Aqaba, together with infantry troops who dug foxholes and slit trenches to protect themselves against the Israelis in the



Umm Rashrash police station, about two miles west of the port.

On March 14, Arab Legion headquarters charged that Israeli forces had made an incursion into Transjordan territory at Ein Gharandal, some thirty miles north of Aqaba; later they charged that Israeli forces were plundering Arab villages along the Transjordan-Palestine frontier south of the Dead Sea. On the 20th, Transjordan formally requested the British Government for military assistance to defend its southern territory. In practical terms this would have meant that British troops would take over patrol duty from the Legion from Aqaba to the southern end of the Dead Sea and thus release Legion forces, which could then occupy the Jenin-Tulkarm-Nablus triangle. The Transjordan armistice delegation would find its bargaining position vastly improved as a result.

The Israelis considered that this would be an act of intimidation against them and when the British showed readiness to comply, Tel Aviv warned that if British forces took over the Arab Legion patrol in the southern Negev, she would regard it as "a very grave breach of the truce." She also warned that it might endanger her armistice negotiations with Transjordan, and in fact, the following day it looked as if she might walk out of the Rhodes conference.

On the 22nd, Dr. Bunch sent a report to the Security Council on the situation in the southern Negev, based on reports from UN observers. He declared that Transjordan's charges of Israeli incursions had been found to be groundless and that there had been no clashes between Israeli and Transjordanian forces. He concluded, however, that any positions established in this area by both Transjordan or Israeli forces had been established after the coming into force of the truce and that both parties had thereby violated the cease-fire agreement. He added this significant note about British activity in the area: "Similarly, patrolling activity and reinforcement of pre-Truce forces on either side of the frontier in this sector are in conflict with Truce conditions which have been accepted by both sides." Apparently on the advice of Washington, the British Government decided not to comply with Abdullah's request for assistance.

While these maneuvers to force the Israelis out of the eastern Negev were going on, the armistice negotiations made little progress. Although on March 11 a formal cease-fire agreement had been signed, and on the 17th both delegations had agreed in principle to reduce their military forces in the armistice demarcation zone to defense units, the presence of the reinforced British garrison at Aqaba made the question of the reduction

of Israeli forces to equal those of the Arab Legion impossible.

Another serious source of difficulty was the "triangle." The existing lines in the other zones were more or less acceptable to Israel, but she demanded a rectification in the Jenin-Tulkarm sector in order to free the Haifa-Tel Aviv railroad and to guarantee the security of Tel Aviv and the Haifa-Tel Aviv highway. As late as March 27, no great progress was recorded. On the 29th, however, after the British had completely retreated, Dr. Bunche submitted a final draft to both delegations, who in turn transmitted it to their respective governments for approval. On April 3, the armistice was signed, by Reuven Shiloah and Lieutenant Colonel Moshe Dayan for Israel, Colonel Ahmed el Jundi and Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Muayatah for Transjordan, and Dr. Bunche for the United Nations.

#### *The Transjordan-Israeli Armistice*

The agreement consists of a preamble and twelve articles. The preamble and the first four articles are practically the same as those of the Lebanese agreement. Article 5 deals with demarcation lines. The lines around Jerusalem agreed on in the cease-fire of November 30 are retained; a minor adjustment is made in favor of Transjordan in the Hebron-Dead Sea sector; south from the Dead Sea to Aqaba the line is the one established during March, which follows the international boundary between Palestine and Transjordan. Article 6 recognizes the substitution of Transjordanian for Iraqi forces in the "triangle" and makes rectification in favor of Israel in freeing the Haifa-Tel Aviv railway. For this the Israeli Government agrees to reimburse Transjordan for the cost of constructing twenty kilometers of first-class road. Military forces in the armistice region—ten kilometers on either side of the armistice line except where geographical consideration makes this impractical—are limited to those for defensive purposes.

Provision is made for setting up a special committee of representatives of both parties for "the purposes of formulating agreed plans and arrangements designed to enlarge the scope of this agreement and to effect improvements in its application." This means that it will deal with issues on which agreement was reached in principle, but with which the armistice does not specifically deal. These issues are enumerated thus: free movement of traffic on vital roads, including the Bethlehem-Jerusalem and Latrun-Jerusalem roads; free access to and resumption of the normal functioning of the cultural and humanitarian institutions on Mount Scopus; free access to the holy places and cultural institutions



and use of the cemetery on the Mount of Olives; resumption of operations of the Latrun pumping station; provision of electricity in the Old City and resumption of operation of the railroad to Jerusalem. This special committee will not be presided over by a UN official.

The agreement also provides for the creation of a mixed commission to execute the provisions of the armistice, the same as in the Lebanese-Israeli agreement,

except that it goes into greater detail on the mode of operation. The last article provides machinery for modifying or suspending any of the provisions of the agreement, with the exception of the basic articles 1 and 3. During the first year this can be accomplished only by mutual consent; thereafter, if mutual accord is not reached, changes would be made through conferences with representatives of the United Nations.

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## Israel and the United Nations

By Dr. Chaim Weizmann

*An address delivered by Dr. Weizmann, President of Israel, in New York, on April 23, at a dinner given in his honor by the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovoth.*

I AM DEEPLY moved by the sight of this large and impressive gathering. I am conscious that in honoring me by your presence here tonight you pay tribute to the two causes which have commanded my devotion throughout my life—the cause of Israel's rise to independence, and the cause of scientific progress and research. These two interests which I pursued so long in parallel but separate channels have now converged in the Institute of Science which has sponsored this occasion tonight. For at our laboratories and libraries at Rehovoth, in the gentle beauty of the coastal plain, we dedicate ourselves at once to the universal principles of science and to the special needs of Israel as a state confronted by urgent economic and social tasks.

Few events in the history of our generation have evoked a wider or more ardent sympathy amongst the peoples of the world than the emergence of Israel as an independent state after two thousand years of homelessness. Surely it is no ordinary episode. So many high issues are here involved. Here we have the gallant struggle of a people which lost six million of its sons in the cause of the victorious United Nations against the Nazi tyranny; the establishment of democracy in an area where the ideals and institutions of democracy are little known; the revival of one of mankind's oldest cultures; the creation of a home of social and scientific progress in a region where desperate squalor and degradation prevail; a successful defense against aggression; the realization of an international judgment made by the United Nations eighteen months ago; a great ingathering of exiles; the auspicious beginnings of Arab-Jewish peace—all this has happened in the one crowded year since I last left these shores for Israel. It is proper to feel humility at this great hour of Israel's fortunes. Yet I confess that is a humility not unmingled with pride. I am naturally conscious of much imperfection in Israel still; yet in the light of these splendid events the idea that my people's rightful claim to a modest equality in the family of nations is still a matter of doubt, appears to me unworthy of any serious or sincere mind.

### The Goal of Lasting Peace

Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is a source of special pleasure to me to celebrate this occasion in the United States. Israel will be eternally grateful for the wide support which it has received from the Government and people of this great country. On many crucial occasions this support has been expressed by the deeply human statesmanship of President Truman, who was the pioneer in the recognition of our state. It will be my privilege a few days hence to express my people's gratitude to the President in person.

I recall that in those fateful early days we were quick to receive the recognition and consistent support of the Soviet Union; ever since that time we have pursued—and will continue to pursue—a policy of friendship to all the nations, whether or not they diverge amongst themselves in other aspects of their policy. From the earliest days we were warmly supported by the states of Eastern Europe, South America and the British Dominions, whose distinguished representatives I am happy to greet this evening. In recent weeks Israel has been privileged to establish official relations with governments of Western Europe, and the entire American continent, as well as making its first steps toward recognition in the continent of Asia. Above all other objectives my Government will cherish and pursue the goal of lasting peace between Israel and the Arab states.

I should like to say a special word of welcome to the representatives of the United Nations present here tonight, and especially to the eminent President of the General Assembly. Dr. Evatt has played a momentous role in all the processes which culminated in the birth of Israel within the shelter of the United Nations. The cause of international cooperation owes much to his high qualities of intellect and zeal, and I deeply appreciate his eloquent words tonight. The doctrine of universal peace entered the records of civilization as the inheritance of Israel's prophetic literature. It is the cornerstone of the Charter.

Recent events have also created an intimate relationship between the early days of Israel's independence and the most successful effort yet achieved by the United Nations in the solution of an international conflict by judgment, conciliation and mediation. It is therefore a



happy omen to have amongst us the Secretary-General, Mr. Trygve Lie, whose name is almost a synonym for the ideal of world peace. The confidence of world opinion in the practical value of skillful mediation has been greatly strengthened by the brilliant accomplishments of another of our guests this evening—Dr. Ralph Bunche.

It is noteworthy that the statement whereby the Government of Israel secured Parliamentary confidence pledges our foreign policy to seek its expression through the procedures of the Charter. Despite its small size, Israel evokes moral and intellectual influence throughout the world which may well be deemed worthy of being harnessed to the general strength and prestige of the United Nations.

### **The City of Jerusalem**

At this season it is natural for the world to turn its thoughts towards the holy city of Jerusalem. Within a single year Jerusalem has been rescued from the condition of violence, anarchy, siege and famine in which it was abandoned last year. Its people have passed through unforgettable sacrifices and ordeals. I have been deeply impressed with Jerusalem's recovery since that time. It is a special pride to record the part played by the Government and people of Israel in restoring the city's life and security, establishing a regular and effective administration, renewing its food and water supply and reviving the cultural and educational primacy befitting its tradition. This achievement, at the cost of many young and precious lives, deserves the applause of all devout and reverent men to whom the neglect and humiliation of Jerusalem last year must have been a deep reproach.

The Government and people of Israel are conscious of the international interest in the safety of the holy places and the right of free access to them. We pledge ourselves to ensure full security for religious institutions in the exercise of their functions; to grant the supervision of the holy places by those who hold them sacred; and to encourage and accept the fullest international safeguards and controls for their immunity and protection.

Just as we are resolved to give complete and practical expression to the universal interest arising from the holy places, so we expect that the international community will understand the direct and inescapable responsibility which Israel bears and exercises in the daily life and administration of Jewish Jerusalem. I am satisfied that no real incompatibility exists between the interests and concerns of Christianity, to which His Holiness the Pope has recently given eloquent expression, and the aspirations of the people of Jerusalem to assure their government and security in conformity with their national allegiance. If theirs is a genuine desire to reconcile these two interests, a harmonious solution can swiftly be secured with international consent.

### **The End of Human Suffering**

Ladies and gentlemen, it should not be imagined that this record of advance in so many fields signifies that

Israel's main tasks are over. Nothing has been more impressive in recent months than to observe the welcome flow of Jewish immigrants by their tens of thousands into our open ports. With their arrival a terrible chapter in human suffering is about to be closed. They come destitute, haunted by the terrible memories of martyrdom, very often still stunned and demoralized by the ordeals through which they have passed. To secure their transportation and absorption in productive work is an immense task, the successful completion of which depends entirely upon the outcome of the United Jewish Appeal, which merits the fervent support of American Jewry.

I cannot possibly exaggerate the importance of a successful campaign for the United Jewish Appeal this year. It is the one really decisive test of American Jewry's devotion to the cause of Israel and the Jewish people. No less than 23,000 of our people have come to our shores in the first sixteen days of April alone. We receive them on the solemn assumption that American Jews will assist us in providing the resources without which the very generosity of our immigration policy will crush the economy of our state.

If Jews in this country are the partners in Israel's pride, let them share in its travails which it has endured not for Israel itself, but for the life and dignity of our people.

This great increase in our population compels us to give urgent attention to the conditions necessary for our people to maintain a dignified standard of life. In order to make up the disparity between the needs of our immigrants and the limited resources of our country, great schemes of industrial and agricultural development must be undertaken. These, together with the settlement and irrigation of the Negev, can help a swift expansion to take place in Israel's economic opportunities. The Weizmann Institute is engaged in an investigation of the Negev's potentialities. Our first conclusions indicate that both the Negev's agricultural possibilities and its industrial resources can be more hopefully evaluated than they used to be.

### **The Role of Science**

A country such as Israel can only develop industry based on the skill of its people and the application of the results of scientific research. The Institute of Science at Rehovoth has already played an honorable part in every crisis of our state. The processes worked out there have enabled good results to be obtained from advanced agricultural methods. When the country was at war the workshops and laboratories at Rehovoth were a potent aid in its defense. Now as we stand on the threshold of great industrial development, it is certain that only scientific research can reveal new possibilities for the manufacture of exportable goods.

While we shall not neglect the needs of pure science, I am especially conscious at this time of the urgent need for applied research, harnessed to a swiftly developing economy. Moreover, high standards of production, health and education in an Israel dominated by a scientific spirit,



cannot fail to have a deep effect upon the surrounding Arab world. We enter upon our task with a deep sense of regional responsibility, hoping that the Arab peoples will soon join us in the common pursuit of peace and welfare. The development of the Middle East holds out great hope for a common regional solution of problems of economic recovery, social stability and refugee settlement. The problem of resettling refugees in conditions favorable to their free and peaceful life requires urgent attention by all the Governments concerned.

The glaring light of public attention is focussed upon the State of Israel. More is expected of it than is usually

demand of such small states born in the throes of adversity and crisis. The cultural traditions of our people encourage the world to expect a corresponding achievement by Israel in modern times. We cannot hope to surprise the world with any manifestations of material power; and Israel has no deeper longing than to turn its energies into the arts of peace. In this generation, as always before, Israel must make its mark through the achievements of its mind and spirit. I pray that the coming years of independence will be not unworthy of the first; and that Israel will remain forever faithful to its most universal and significant ideals.

## The Middle East — Review of Events

February 17 to April 15, 1949

By M. Perlmann

**A**FTER six weeks of negotiations, bringing to an end nine months of hostilities, Egypt and Israel signed an armistice on February 4. The agreement was at the same time a tribute to Dr. Bunche's negotiating skill and the first omen that peace in Palestine might soon be restored. It was followed less than two months later by an armistice between Israel and Lebanon, and on April 3 by an armistice between Israel and Transjordan.

The latter came in for much criticism in Israel's Knesset, the extreme right and the extreme left opposition maintaining that it virtually opened the way for the entrance of Britain into Palestine, via Transjordan, and warning the Government that it would be bolstering King Abdullah's schemes if it consented to let him annex Arab Palestine. The agreement was nevertheless approved by a vote of confidence (64 to 15).

The United Nations Conciliation Commission held a number of meetings in Beirut with Arab representatives, and in Tel Aviv. Both sides indicated a readiness to participate in a conference on neutral soil, and the Commission decided to hold such a conference in Lausanne.

The solution of the difficult problem of the Arab refugees is being recognized in many quarters as involving resettlement and rehabilitation. In the House of Lords in London it was stated that only through large-scale development projects in the Arab countries could the situation be successfully dealt with.

The Conciliation Commission lost no time in protesting against the Israeli cabinet's decision to move a number of its ministries and departments to Jerusalem. It considered that this move would prejudice the future status of Jerusalem, and that it was at variance with the

General Assembly's instructions concerning the internationalization of the city. On a visit to Washington, Foreign Minister Sharett declared that the New City must remain part of Israel and that the Old City might be placed under a UN trusteeship. Jerusalem is now actually divided between Israel and Transjordan. The latter is opposed to internationalization. The Vatican is strongly in favor of a UN regime. There is a feeling in many circles, however, that this would hardly prove practicable.

David Ben Gurion formed a coalition cabinet from which the Heruth party (Revisionists, Irgun) is excluded and which the Mapam (left-wing labor) and General Zionists refused to join. Dr. Weizmann was sworn in as President of the State. The wave of recognitions continued: Bolivia, China, Austria, Mexico, the Philippines, and Turkey, the first Moslem country to grant recognition.

With the prospect of pacification along its frontiers brighter, Israel is concentrating on its economic problems—immigration, housing, supplies, trade relations and production.

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A painless coup d'état engineered by the Army took place in Syria on March 30. "Most experienced observers . . . are unanimous in expressing astonishment that there was so little behind the constitutional and parliamentary façade of the Syrian Republic."<sup>1</sup>

The President and his cabinet were placed under arrest and urged to resign; some small political groups were suppressed; the press was even more tightly muzzled; Parliament was dissolved; new elections were promised

<sup>1</sup> Albion Ross, *The New York Times*, April 7.



under a new electoral law which would grant the franchise to women, for the first time in an Arab state; a cabinet of technical experts was set up, and a delegation sent to negotiate an armistice with Israel.

Various and contradictory interpretations have been given to explain the plot which brought about the overthrow of the Government. While some lay it to an Egyptian move against the Hashimi house, others see in it a pro-Hashimi hand. The head of the victorious Army clique, General Husni Zayim, asserted that the Army was exasperated by the conduct of affairs and of the war, and that the intolerable insults heaped on the Army by ineffective politicians made it imperative to free the country of corruption.

The members of Parliament could not reach agreement on what action to take; the elder statesman, Faris el Khouri, whom the Army chief regards with great reverence, could not be moved to express his complete agreement with the new forces; and so the Army junta, cheered on by students demonstrating in the streets, found itself in charge of the State machinery.

Premier Nuri es-Said paid a visit to Damascus, and Iraq shortly thereafter granted recognition to the new régime, the first country to do so. A second visitor was the secretary general of the Arab League.

The Lebanese press, already badly mauled by administrative bullying, trials, fines and suspensions, was decried by the head of the new régime in Syria. The Lebanese premier also promised a new electoral law and franchise for women. The opposition is unrelenting in its demand for a new Chamber; as usual, both sides insist on wide reforms.

There seems to be a growing rapprochement between Egypt and Great Britain. Ahmed Khashaba Pasha, the Foreign Minister, spoke recently of "loyal cooperation" between the two countries. After three months of negotiations, a trade pact was signed, with Khashaba expressing the hope that it would consolidate the basis of co-operation in other spheres. London agreed to release 30 million pounds of Egypt's frozen sterling balances for

the current year, raise British exports to Egypt from 34.5 to 47 million pounds, and facilitate the supply of petroleum and petroleum products.

The Suez Canal Company undertook to fill ninety per cent of its administrative staff and eighty per cent of the technical posts with Egyptians, to increase Egypt's share of the profits, and to enlarge her membership on the Board of Directors. At the same time, differences between the Government and the Standard Oil Company of Egypt, an affiliate of Standard Oil of New Jersey, brought about a suspension of the operations of the American concern.

Considerable importance is attached to the passage of laws on income tax and social security. If carried out, these may mark the beginning of a radical change in the system of taxation and the acceptance of social responsibilities by the State and the upper classes.

In Iran, proclamation of martial law was followed by a decree ordering elections for a new Parliament. There were border skirmishes between Soviet troops and Iranian units and "cold war jitters" hit the country.

The General Assembly of the United Nations, meeting at Lake Success, is dealing with two Middle Eastern questions: Israel's application for membership in the world organization, and the fate of the former Italian colonies. The General Committee of the Assembly recommended that action on the application be taken without preliminary debate; the recommendation was not, however, accepted and the Assembly referred the matter to its Political and Security Committee. The argument was raised that, to prove herself a worthy candidate for membership, Israel should first undertake to respect the United Nations resolution on the internationalization of Jerusalem. It was illuminating that while the British were leading the demand for internationalization at Lake Success, in London they were expressing doubts about such a solution.

With respect to the Italian colonies, protracted discussion is foreseen since the Western powers have failed to reach substantial agreement about their disposition.

## Chronology

(Mar. 16—Apr. 15, 1949)

### EGYPT

*Mar. 31:* Great Britain and Egypt conclude a financial and commercial agreement under which the former will allow Egypt fewer dollars but will increase exports, particularly of heavy capital goods, to make up her loss.

### GREAT BRITAIN

*Mar. 18:* The British increase their financial assistance to Transjordan's Arab Legion for the fiscal year 1949-50 from £2,000,000 to £3,500,000 (about \$14,000,000).

*Mar. 29:* Lord Henderson declares in the House of Lords



that the Government is ready to cooperate in the resettlement of Palestine Arab refugees through large-scale development projects in Arab countries.

*Apr. 13:* Christopher P. Mayhew, Foreign Undersecretary, tells the House of Commons that Parliament will be asked to approve an interest-free loan of £1,000,000 to Transjordan to initiate development projects for the resettlement of Arab refugees.

*Apr. 14:* Speaking in Commons, Mayhew expresses doubts about the feasibility of a "full scheme of internationalization" for Jerusalem.

## IRAN

*Mar. 19:* The Moscow radio attacks Anglo-American activities in Iran on the ground that airdromes, ports and communications are being constructed to aid American military and political "expansion."

*Mar. 23:* At a news conference, Secretary of State Dean Acheson denounces the Russian charges as "false and demonstrably untrue."

## ISRAEL

*Mar. 17:* By a vote of 85-3, the Knesset ratifies the agreement with the Export-Import Bank for a loan of \$100,000,000.

*Mar. 18:* During a visit to the U.S., Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett says that the Old City of Jerusalem might be placed under international control, under a UN trusteeship.

Cuba and Finland follow their *de facto* recognition with *de jure* recognition.

*Mar. 22:* The Government decides to transfer five ministries from Hakirya to Jerusalem.

*Mar. 28:* The Knesset refuses to give the Communists representation on its Foreign Affairs and Security Committees. Turkey grants *de facto* recognition.

*Mar. 30:* Prime Minister David Ben Gurion informs the Knesset that the Government has instructed the Israeli delegation at the UN to request an inquiry on whether the Arab states, particularly Syria and Iraq, are complying with the General Assembly resolution outlawing genocide.

*Apr. 1:* Four Israeli soldiers, traveling in a military car, are ambushed and killed between Faluja and Hebron.

The Philippines grant *de jure* recognition.

*Apr. 4:* After a heated debate, the Knesset approves the Transjordan armistice agreement by a 64-15 vote of confidence.

*Apr. 7:* Mexico grants *de jure* recognition.

## LEBANON

*Apr. 9:* The Home Ministry says that there are 3,300 acres of hashish plantations which produce 77,152 pounds of the drug, mostly sold in Egypt, and provide an income of 51,000,000 Lebanese pounds. The law imposes severe penalties for hashish cultivation, but most of the plantations are owned by persons of high local standing and the penalties are seldom applied against them.

## SYRIA

*Mar. 30:* The Government is overthrown in a bloodless coup d'état led by Gen. Husni Zayim, chief of staff of the

Army. The President, Shukri el Kuwatly, and the cabinet ministers are placed under arrest.

*Mar. 31:* Seventy-six of the 136 members of Parliament remain in all-night session but are not able to reach a decision on accepting Gen. Zayim's ultimatum that they depose the President or lose their positions.

*Apr. 1:* Gen. Zayim announces that Parliament has been dissolved and that he has formed a "provisional administrative government" with himself "temporarily" as its head.

*Apr. 12:* Gen. Zayim issues a decree permanently suppressing eleven of the nineteen newspapers in Damascus.

*Apr. 13:* Premier Khalid el Azem resigns and is released after fourteen days' confinement.

*Apr. 14:* Gen. Zayim announces that he will form a "constitutional" cabinet in preparation for a return to "democratic" government.

## TRANSJORDAN

*Mar. 17:* Transjordan sets up civil administration in all Palestine areas under her control.

*Apr. 15:* Dr. Yusef Heikal, former mayor of Jaffa and the first Palestine Arab to accept Transjordan citizenship, is named Transjordan's minister to the U.S.

## UNITED NATIONS

### Armistice Negotiations

*Mar. 16:* Israel and Transjordan agree on armistice lines in Jerusalem based on the truce lines agreed upon by their military commanders on Nov. 30.

*Mar. 17:* The acting Mediator, Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, announces that Israel and Transjordan have agreed in principle to reduce and equalize their forces in the armistice demarcation zone.

*Mar. 20:* Israeli and Lebanese delegations initial an armistice agreement at the frontier post of Ras en Naqura.

*Mar. 21:* Dr. Bunche announces that Syria and Israel have accepted an invitation to discuss an armistice.

A British Foreign Office spokesman says that Britain has under consideration a request by Transjordan for British troops "to patrol part of Transjordan's southern border in view of alleged Israeli incursions" into her territory.

An Israeli Government spokesman denies that any Israeli troops have crossed into Transjordan.

In a statement to Secretary General Trygve Lie and to the members of the Security Council, the Israeli delegation charges that recent British troop arrivals in Aqaba are in violation of the truce resolution of May 29, 1948; she asks that the British forces be withdrawn.

*Mar. 23:* Lebanon and Israel sign an armistice agreement.

Dr. Bunche informs the Security Council that Great Britain, Israel and Transjordan have violated the truce by moving troops in the Aqaba region.

A British Foreign Office spokesman rejects the charge.

*Mar. 29:* Israel's and Transjordan's delegates return to their capitals to obtain approval on the final armistice draft.

*Mar. 31:* Gen. Zayim, Syria's new military ruler, informs the UN Chief of Staff, Brig. Gen. William E. Riley, that he is willing to proceed with armistice negotiations with Israel.



*Apr. 3:* Israeli and Transjordanian delegates sign an armistice agreement.

Dr. Bunche announces that negotiations between Israel and Syria will start on the 5th.

*Apr. 5:* Representatives of Israel and Syria meet near Rosh Pinah, between the Israeli and Syrian lines.

Gen. Zayim charges that about 60 Israeli soldiers have penetrated some 300 meters into Syrian territory north of Lake Huleh; he threatens to annihilate the force unless it is withdrawn.

*Apr. 7:* The Israeli unit withdraws.

*Apr. 8:* Lieut. Col. Mordecai Makleff informs Gen. Riley that the Israeli delegation is not prepared to continue negotiations with Syria unless she withdraws her troops from Hill 223, which had been occupied during the truce.

*Apr. 12:* The Israeli and Syrian delegations resume armistice talks after a compromise formula is found for the Syrian evacuation of Hill 223.

*Apr. 13:* Israel and Syria sign a cease-fire agreement as a preliminary step to an armistice.

#### Conciliation Commission

*Mar. 17:* It is announced that Haj Amin el Hussein, the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, has been invited to testify before the Commission as the representative of a "non-government group" and not of the "Palestine Arab Government."

*Mar. 21:* The Commission holds its first meeting with representatives of the Arab states at Beirut.

*Mar. 24:* The Commission hears a deputation from the Arab war refugees. Since the Commission refuses to recognize its governmental status, the ex-Mufti's group decides not to appear but only to send a written memorandum.

*Mar. 25:* Israel submits to the Commission a memorandum advocating the settlement of the majority of the Arab war refugees in Arab countries.

*Apr. 4:* The Commission announces that it will report to Secretary General Trygve Lie its plan to "continue and expand" exchanges of views with all governments concerned in the Palestine question at some neutral place "in the near future."

*Apr. 5:* Dr. Bunche arrives in Beirut to confer with the Commission. The Commission announces the "successful close" of its discussions with the Arab governments and says that all Arab League member-states except Iraq have approved the continuation of the "exchange of views."

*Apr. 14:* The Commission decides to hold future conferences with Arabs and Israelis at Lausanne, Switzerland, beginning Apr. 26.

#### General Assembly

*Apr. 8:* The General Committee of the General Assembly decides, by a vote of 5-3, to recommend that the Assembly take up Israel's application for membership without preliminary debate in the Political and Security Committee. Great Britain, Iran and Lebanon oppose the decision; Australia and Belgium abstain.

*Apr. 13:* By a 31-18 vote, with 7 abstentions and 2 absentees, the Assembly decides to refer Israel's application to its Political and Security Committee.

#### UNITED STATES

*Mar. 16:* Jewish organizations protest against the reported trials and execution of seven Iraqi Jews for Zionist activities.

A bill to authorize a \$16,000,000 contribution to the UN for the relief of Palestine war refugees is passed by the House and sent to the President.

*Mar. 24:* Pres. Truman signs the bill.

*Apr. 13:* Pres. Weizmann arrives in the U.S. for a visit.

#### VATICAN

*Apr. 15:* Pope Pius XII asks, in a Good Friday encyclical, that Jerusalem be internationalized.

#### YEMEN

*Mar. 18:* In response to a British appeal, Imam Seif el Islam Ahmed forbids Jews to go to the British Crown colony of Aden, from where an Israeli-operated airlift flies these refugees to Israel.

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# Dup. 6/6/49 Israel — The 59th Member of the United Nations

*By Benjamin Shwadran*

**D**URING the past year and a half, Israel had to fight for her very existence, set up a governmental machine out of the chaos left behind by the Mandatory, establish the democratic basis and structure of the state, obtain recognition from the countries of the world, and seek admission to the world organization. This last effort, beset by complicated legal and political obstacles, was successfully achieved when, on May 11, Israel attained full diplomatic stature as the fifty-ninth member of the United Nations.

Section F of the General Assembly resolution of November 29, 1947 partitioning Palestine provided: "When the independence of either the Arab or the Jewish State as envisaged in this plan has become effective and the declaration and undertaking, as envisaged in this plan, have been signed by either of them, sympathetic consideration should be given to its application for admission to membership in the United Nations in accordance with Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations." But the development of events was not that envisaged by the resolution and many of its provisions could not be implemented. Of the three units envisaged in the resolution—the Jewish State, the Arab State, and the City of Jerusalem—only the Jewish State came into existence, and this was due solely to Jewish determination to bring about the realization of the Zionist dream, and despite the open, violent opposition to the UN resolution by the Arab states and the unwillingness of the UN itself to implement partition.

Article 4 of the Charter, governing admission to membership, reads:

1. Membership in the United Nations is open to all other peace-loving states which accept the obligations contained in the present Charter and, in the judgment of the Organization, are able and willing to carry out these obligations.

2. The admission of any such State to membership in the United Nations will be effected by a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

As early as last August, the Israeli representative at the United Nations submitted a memorandum to the members of the Security Council proving that according to the membership requirements, Israel was fully qualified for admission. Although the British served notice that they would not vote for Israel's admission, Secretary of State George C. Marshall, in his opening speech before the General Assembly in Paris on September 23, called on the UN to admit Israel and Transjordan. Again on November 20, Dr. Philip C. Jessup, the United States representative in the Political and Security Committee, in a preliminary statement on the Palestine issue, said that the United States looked forward to the admission of Israel and that it was his Government's hope that the Security Council would soon be able to recommend the new State as fully qualified for membership.

The General Assembly and the Security Council were both dealing with the Palestine question at this time. The former was struggling, unsuccessfully, to formulate a resolution based on the Bernadotte plan, while the latter was striving to bring about an armistice in Palestine. Nevertheless, taking into consideration Israel's rapid progress since the official proclamation of the State on May 14, her Foreign Minister, Moshe Sharett, presented Israel's application to Secretary General Trygve Lie on the anniversary date of the partition resolution, November 29, for transmission to the Security Council:

On May 14, 1948, the independence of the State of Israel was proclaimed by the National Council of the Jewish people in Palestine by virtue of the natural and historic right of the Jewish people to independence in its own sovereign State and in pursuance of the General Assembly Resolution of November 29, 1947. Since that



date Israel has been consolidated administratively and defended itself successfully against the aggression of neighbouring States. It has so far achieved recognition by nineteen Powers.

On behalf of the Provisional Government of Israel, I have now the honour to request the admission of Israel as a member of the United Nations in accordance with Article 4 of the Charter.

In view of the special nature of this application I would request that its consideration should proceed without regard to the deadlines fixed by Rule 60, paragraphs 1-4, but in conformity with paragraph 5 of the same Rule 60 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council.

A formal declaration that the Government of Israel accepts all the obligations stipulated in the United Nations Charter is enclosed.

My Government submits that Israel's admission to the United Nations will constitute an act of international justice to the Jewish people, fully consistent with United Nations policy on Palestine, and will contribute to the stabilisation of the Middle East and to the cause of international peace.

The attached declaration read:

On behalf of the State of Israel, I, Moshe Shertok, Minister for Foreign Affairs, being duly authorised by the State Council of Israel, declare that the State of Israel hereby unreservedly accepts the obligations of the United Nations Charter and undertakes to honour them from the day when it becomes a member of the United Nations.

### Before the Security Council

Three days later, the Security Council took up Israel's application. The United States representative, Dr. Jessup, urged the Council to approve it. He pointed out that the application had to be considered under the terms of Article 4 of the Charter, a consideration which raised the following questions: Is Israel a state? Is she peace-loving? Is she accepting the obligations of the Charter? Is she willing and able to carry out these obligations?

On the question of whether Israel is or is not a state, Dr. Jessup recalled to the Council that all the classical writers on international law give four qualifications for a state: it must have a people, it must have a territory, it must have a government, and that government must have the capacity to enter into relations with other states. He pointed out that Israel exercised complete independence of judgment and will in executing its foreign policy; no one can doubt that Israel has a government. "I think the world has been particularly impressed with the way in which the people of Israel have organized their government and have established a firm system of administration and of lawmaking under the most difficult conditions."

Nobody questions the fact that Israel has a people. To arguments in connection with the territory of Israel, Dr. Jessup pointed out that in no treatment of this sub-

ject has there ever been insistence that the territory of a state must be exactly fixed by definite frontiers. "The existence of the United States of America was not in question before its final frontiers were determined." The insistence that a state have a territory, Dr. Jessup said, is merely that there must be some portion of the earth's surface which its people inhabit and over which its government exercises authority. "No one can deny that the State of Israel responds to this requirement."

Having thus established that Israel fulfils all the requirements of a state, the United States representative turned to the other conditions contained in Article 4. He declared that the United States was of the view that Israel is a peace-loving nation; the history of the November 29 resolution of the General Assembly and the various resolutions of the Security Council indicate how peace-loving the Jewish people are. The State of Israel, in its application, had solemnly declared that it accepted the obligations imposed by the Charter. As to the last requirement of Article 4, Dr. Jessup said: "It is the judgment of the United States as one of the members of the United Nations that the State of Israel is able and willing to carry out the obligations imposed by the Charter." In summarizing the requirements for membership, he concluded: "As a result of any inspection of the requirements for membership in the United Nations, as set out in Article 4 of the Charter, and of their application to the specific situation of Israel, my delegation reaches the definite conclusion that the State of Israel is qualified for membership and that its application should be endorsed by the Security Council."

The United States delegate not only advocated the approval of Israel's application; he also argued that "special circumstances" governed the situation, that it was a matter of urgency and should therefore come under the last paragraph of Rule 60 of the Security Council's rules of procedure.<sup>1</sup> Since the General Assembly was about to conclude its session in Paris, Dr. Jessup declared that it would be highly desirable to make it possible for Israel to become a member before the closing of the session so that in reaching a final adjustment of the Palestine problem, "Israel should take its place among the members of the United Nations, equally bound by the Charter, equally responsible to the obligations of the Charter," and he urged the President of the Security Council to request the Membership Committee to report back to the Council not later than December 6.

<sup>1</sup> This paragraph reads: "In special circumstances, the Security Council may decide to make a recommendation to the General Assembly concerning an application for membership subsequent to the expiration of the time limit set forth in the preceding paragraph."



Sir Alexander Cadogan, speaking for the United Kingdom, declared that his Government considered Israel's application "both premature and rather doubtful," that there was no urgency in the matter, and there were many important questions regarding Israel's compliance with the Security Council resolutions, the definition of boundaries and other issues, which should be solved before consideration was given to admitting the Jewish State into the UN. Alexandre Parodi of France pointed out that since the Political Committee of the General Assembly was dealing with the Palestine question and was about to arrive at a resolution, consideration of the application should be deferred until after the Assembly had acted. Russia supported the immediate approval of the application; Canada felt that it would be better to wait until Israel's attitude to the General Assembly's forthcoming resolution was known.

The President, in accordance with the rules of procedure, turned the application over to the Membership Committee. On December 7, the Chairman of the Committee notified the Security Council that the Committee had come to the conclusion that it was not "at present in possession of the requisite information to enable it to come to any decision." He told the Council that the Committee was particularly concerned over the fact that the General Assembly itself had not yet reached a conclusion on the Palestine question as a whole.

On the 15th of December, four days after the General Assembly adopted its resolution,<sup>2</sup> the Security Council took up Israel's application again. Great Britain introduced a resolution to defer its consideration indefinitely; France, supported by Canada, asked for a postponement of two days. The latter proposal was acted on first and the Council adjourned. When it reconvened on the 17th, France was still not in a position to take a definite stand and she asked for a further postponement of about a month. Syria then introduced a resolution asking for an advisory legal opinion from the International Court of Justice on certain aspects of the Palestine issue. If this had been accepted, Israel's application could not have been considered until the Court delivered its opinion. At the end of the debate, all three draft resolutions—Great Britain's, France's and Syria's—were rejected. The Council then voted on the application: Argentina, Colombia, Russia, the Ukraine and the United States in favor; Syria against; Belgium, Canada, China, France and Great Britain abstained. The vote, two short of the necessary majority, was a rejection of the application.

<sup>2</sup> See "From Partition to Conciliation," *Palestine Affairs*, 145-147, Dec., 1948.

## Again Before the Security Council

On the very day that the first armistice between Israel and an Arab state, Egypt, was signed—February 24—Israel's representative at Lake Success resubmitted his country's bid for membership. It was taken up by the Security Council on March 3. France, which had previously asked for postponement, now announced that she considered that Israel had proved herself worthy of membership and that she would vote favorably on the application. Meanwhile, China's delegate raised a procedural question when he maintained that according to Rule 59, the application should be turned over to the Membership Committee for consideration. He made it clear that his suggestion in no way reflected his delegation's attitude toward the application itself and that China would vote for Israel's membership. Norway supported the Chinese suggestion, as did Egypt. The United States' position was that all pertinent facts in the matter were well known to all the members of the Council, that the Membership Committee had already considered the application and had reported on it, and that the requirements of Rule 59 had been complied with. He pointed out that the Committee's statement: "The Committee considers that it will be for the Security Council to decide at the proper time whether to refer the matter back to the Committee or take a decision itself," left it up to the Council to take action and therefore no postponement was necessary. The vote on the motion to refer the application back to the Membership Committee was four in favor, three opposed, and four abstentions, and the President ruled that consideration of Israel's bid was before the Council.

The debate began the following day. Sir Terence Shone declared that Great Britain would abstain from voting because statements made by responsible Israeli representatives indicated that Israel did not intend to pay attention to certain UN resolutions, particularly the questions of the internationalization of Jerusalem and of permitting the Arab refugees to return to their homes in Israel or compensate them. Britain would have preferred to defer consideration of the application until these issues were clarified, but since the Council was determined to take immediate action, she would be forced to abstain. However, he concluded emphatically: "We shall not vote against Israel's admission. We have said in the past that we do not intend to use our privileged veto to block the admission of any State which obtains the requisite majority." When Canada and Cuba indicated that their vote would be favorable, and Norway, who would have preferred to defer the application, did likewise, it was a foregone conclusion that the Security Coun-



cil would recommend Israel for membership. The only opponent was Egypt, whose representative violently attacked Israel and all the governments who were supporting her application.

The United States representative, Warren R. Austin, introduced the following resolution:

THE SECURITY COUNCIL,

HAVING RECEIVED and considered the application of Israel for membership in the United Nations;

DECIDES in its judgment that Israel is a peace-loving State and is able and willing to carry out the obligations contained in the Charter; and

ACCORDINGLY RECOMMENDS to the General Assembly that it admit Israel to membership in the United Nations.

The vote was 9 in favor: Argentina, Canada, China, Cuba, France, Norway, the Ukraine, the U.S.S.R. and the United States; Egypt against, and the United Kingdom abstaining. The President, Alberto y Alvarez of Cuba, ruled that the resolution was adopted.<sup>3</sup>

### Before the General Assembly

On March 7, the President of the Security Council notified Dr. Herbert V. Evatt of Australia, the President of the General Assembly, that the Security Council recommended Israel's admission to the United Nations. A month later, the General Committee of the Assembly recommended that the application be included on the agenda of the Third Session for consideration by the General Assembly without prior reference to a committee. However, when the plenary met on April 13 to take action on this recommendation, the Arab bloc, backed by the Scandinavian countries and Great Britain, objected to such direct consideration. While the Assembly voted, 46-7, with 3 abstentions, to put Israel's application on its agenda, it voted, 31-18, with 7 abstentions, to refer the application first to the Political Committee.

The Political Committee was overloaded and on April 29, the General Committee recommended that the application be transferred to the *ad hoc* Political Committee, which was then idle. This was approved by the plenary on May 2, after a prolonged debate, by a vote of 42-12, with 3 abstentions.

<sup>3</sup> Concerning the fact that Great Britain, one of the permanent members of the Council, had abstained from voting, the President declared: "According to the established practice of the Security Council, whenever the rule of unanimity of the permanent members is concerned, the abstention of one of those permanent members does not invalidate the favorable vote of the Security Council." Dr. Jose Arce of Argentina, however, said that he wished to state that while it was true, as the President had said, that the Security Council had adopted this practice, it was his opinion that the Council had no right to modify the Charter in this respect. The President's ruling was not challenged.

### The Ad Hoc Political Committee Acts

That same day, Dr. Evatt notified the Chairman of the *ad hoc* Committee, General Carlos P. Romulo of the Philippines, that three items had been allocated to his Committee, and he listed them in the following order:

1. Israel's application
2. The question of Indonesia
3. The creation of a subcommission to study the problem of the aboriginal population of the American continent

The *ad hoc* Committee was convened on the 3rd. The tactics of Israel's opponents were clear from the very first meeting when the Chairman proposed that the agenda be taken up in the order outlined by Dr. Evatt. Pakistan's representative wanted the order reversed in accordance with the original listing in the Political Committee, *i.e.*, with Israel last. The underlying hope was, of course, that the application would not be reached in time and that action would have to be deferred to the next session of the Assembly. Pakistan was supported by Lebanon, while the United States, Poland, Mexico, Belgium and Australia supported Dr. Evatt's listing. General Romulo ruled that the latter would be the order of the agenda.

The Committee was about to begin debate when again Sir Mohammed Zafrullah Khan of Pakistan attempted to block consideration of the application on the ground that since Great Britain had abstained from voting on it in the Security Council, according to Article 27 which requires the affirmative vote of seven members, including the "concurring votes of the permanent members," the Security Council's recommendation, as required by Article 4, was not valid. The Chairman ruled that it was "beyond the competence of the Committee to question the regularity of the vote in the Security Council and the validity of the decision taken." This did not satisfy Iraq's delegate. He suggested that the International Court of Justice be asked for an advisory opinion on the validity of the recommendation, and he informed the Chairman that he would introduce a resolution calling on the Security Council for clarification on the regularity of its voting on the recommendation to admit Israel. Iraq subsequently introduced this resolution but withdrew it shortly afterwards.

### The Issues

The major issues revolving around Israel's application were the internationalization of Jerusalem and the return of the Arab refugees. The November 29, 1947 General Assembly resolution recommended that the City of Jerusalem, as delimited by that resolution, be placed



under a UN trusteeship; the December 11, 1948 General Assembly resolution recommended that the Conciliation Commission should present to the Fourth Session of the Assembly a detailed proposal for a permanent international regime for the territory of Jerusalem. The latter decision also provided "that refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property which under principles of international law or in equity should be made good by Governments or authorities responsible."

The Arab representatives reversed their long-standing position on the invalidity of the November 29 resolution and demanded that Israel comply with all its provisions. They argued that from statements made by Israeli spokesmen, particularly from that of Prime Minister David Ben Gurion before the Conciliation Commission, it was clearly evident that Israel was determined not to comply with either of the Assembly's resolutions and that Israel was therefore not qualified to become a member of the United Nations. Moreover, the failure of Israel to apprehend the assassins of the UN Mediator, Count Folke Bernadotte, further indicated her unfitness for membership.

Although Article 4 of the Charter imposes no conditions on admission to membership, a number of delegations were disturbed about Israel's attitude to the questions of Jerusalem and the refugees, and were anxious to hear her official position on these issues. On May 3, El Salvador therefore introduced a draft resolution inviting the Government of Israel to the *ad hoc* Political Committee in order to clarify its position. The resolution was amended by Denmark, who added the question of the Mediator's assassination. Meanwhile, Argentina, disturbed over the Jerusalem question as a result of the encyclicals issued by the Pope, introduced a draft resolution inviting the Holy See to present a report "on the guarantees which, in its exalted opinion, would be necessary for the protection of the Sacred Places in Palestine and for free access thereto." At the same time, however, her representative indicated that Argentina was not making any conditions for the admission of Israel and would vote in the affirmative on the application. This resolution raised a multitude of questions and difficulties; if adopted, it would have caused endless delay. Greece immediately offered an amendment to include the Greek Patriarchate in the Jerusalem area, Saudi Arabia called for the inclusion of the Moslem religious authorities; the list would have been inexhaustive if the representatives

of all the churches interested in Jerusalem were included.

Then Lebanon, after attacking Israel and listing her failures to comply with the provisions of the General Assembly's resolutions, recommended postponement of action on Israel's membership in the UN until she had accepted the principle of the internationalization of Jerusalem and the principle that refugees who wished to return to their homes should be permitted to do so.

The debate revolved around El Salvador's draft resolution. The Arabs tried desperately to block its passage. They argued that the proposal was highly irregular, that in the entire history of the United Nations no candidate for admission had appeared before a committee to plead his case. Nevertheless, on the afternoon of May 4, El Salvador's resolution, amended by Denmark and Australia, was passed by a vote of 35-6, with 11 abstentions:

WHEREAS the question of the admission of Israel to membership in the United Nations has been placed on the agenda of the *ad hoc* Political Committee of the General Assembly,

AND WHEREAS that question is closely connected with the attitude of the Government of Israel to the execution of the resolutions on the internationalization of Jerusalem and the adjacent area and on the problem of the refugees, which were, respectively, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 29 November 1947 and 11 December 1948, and also with the investigations into the circumstances in connection with the assassination of the United Nations Mediator, Count Folke Bernadotte, and Colonel Andre Serot,

AND WHEREAS the Government of Israel should be given an opportunity to clarify its attitude with respect to these questions,

THEREFORE THE AD HOC POLITICAL COMMITTEE RESOLVES

TO INVITE the Government of Israel to send a representative to the *ad hoc* Political Committee with a view to answering such questions and making such statements as the Committee might deem desirable before reporting to the General Assembly on the question of the admission of Israel to membership in the United Nations.

The following morning, Israel's representative, Aubrey S. Eban, was invited to address the Committee. He presented a statement in which he made clear the position of his Government on Jerusalem, the question of the refugees, boundaries, and the assassination of the Mediator. Eban emphasized that Israel was ready to cooperate to the fullest with the UN; he declared that in fact his country had been the only one which had displayed initiative and had actually cooperated in solving the problems involved in the Palestine issue, and he reminded the Committee under what conditions and on what assumptions the partition resolution of Novem-



ber 29, 1947 had been adopted. He pointed out that since then the assumptions had been found to be groundless, that conditions had changed drastically, and that the December 11 resolution had recognized those changes. It was assumed that the Arab states, as UN members, would comply with the Assembly resolution, but they had fought with violence against it; the Trusteeship Council had refused to implement the Jerusalem provisions of the resolution; the Security Council had refused to implement partition. Since it was Israel alone who had implemented the resolution, there must, of necessity, be certain modifications in it, based on the new conditions prevailing and on the realities of the situation. Israel was willing to discuss the question of Jerusalem and to propose plans which would give the holy places and the religious and educational institutions in the city international protection and guarantee of access.

As for the refugee question, the first fact to be considered is the primary responsibility. This, Eban asserted, rested on the Arab states which created the problem when they invaded Palestine, and further, when they incited the Arabs to leave their homes. Nevertheless, Israel, motivated by humanitarian considerations, was willing to help in alleviating the situation of these unfortunate people; she was ready to cooperate with the UN in its efforts, but only on the basis of a general agreement with the neighboring Arab states and with their joint cooperation.

The Israeli representative admitted that the assassins of the Mediator had not been found, but he assured the Committee that the authorities did not consider the case closed and would use their best endeavors to apprehend and punish the perpetrators of that dastardly crime.

After expressing his appreciation to the Committee for the opportunity to present his Government's views, Mr. Eban reminded the assembled delegates that the issues on which he had spoken were matters with which the Conciliation Commission was at the moment concerned and that they were not on the Committee's agenda. The one item under consideration was Israel's application for membership, and the decision on this item should be determined solely according to the provisions of Article 4 of the Charter. The Security Council's recommendation therefore fully establishes Israel's qualification for membership.

Eban was questioned by many delegates and his answers further clarified Israel's attitude on the issues raised. On May 6, on the basis of the statement made by Israel's representative and his answers to the questions, Australia, together with Canada, Guatemala, Haiti,

Panama, the United States and Uruguay, introduced a resolution calling for approval of the Israeli application.

When it appeared that the final round of the debate was approaching, the Arabs resorted to filibustering. They repeated the speeches they had made at all the sessions of the General Assembly which had dealt with Palestine, and now they added the demand that Israel comply with the provisions of the UN resolutions. For a time it looked as if the debate would never end. Late on Saturday, the 7th, a proposal made by the Greek representative that those delegates who had already spoken at least once should be limited to ten minutes was squeezed through by a majority of one vote. The end was drawing near. Great Britain, the last speaker, declared that she was not satisfied with the statements made and the explanations given by Eban and would therefore vote for the Lebanese resolution to postpone action on Israel's application.

The voting on the various resolutions began on the afternoon of May 9. Since the Committee had previously voted to adjourn debate on the Argentinian resolution, Argentina now withdrew it; this was followed by the withdrawal of the Greek and Saudi Arabian amendments. Argentina requested, however, that the Rapporteur indicate in his report that it was the wish of the *ad hoc* Political Committee that the Conciliation Commission should invite the various religious representatives to express their opinions on the issue of Jerusalem and the holy places.

In a roll call vote, the Lebanese resolution was defeated, 25-19, with 12 abstentions, and the Australian *et al* resolution, which had been amended by Chile, was passed by a roll call vote, 33-11, with 13 abstentions:

#### APPLICATION OF ISRAEL FOR ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS

*Having received* the report of the Security Council on the application of Israel for membership in the United Nations,

*Noting* that, in the judgment of the Security Council, Israel is a peace-loving State and is able and willing to carry out the obligations contained in the Charter,

*Noting* that the Security Council has recommended to the General Assembly that it admit Israel to membership in the United Nations,

*Noting furthermore* the declaration by the State of Israel that it "unreservedly accepts the obligations of the United Nations Charter and undertakes to honour them from the day when it becomes a Member of the United Nations,"

*Recalling* its resolutions of 29 November 1947 and 11 December 1948 and taking note of the declarations and explanations made by the representative of the Government of Israel in respect of the implementation of the said resolutions,



### *The General Assembly,*

Acting in discharge of its functions under Article 4 of the Charter and rule 125 of its rules of procedure,

1. *Decides* that Israel is a peace-loving State which accepts the obligations contained in the Charter and is able and willing to carry out those obligations;

2. *Decides* to admit Israel to membership in the United Nations.

On the 11th of May, the plenary experienced a miniature repetition of the debate in the *ad hoc* Committee. Finally, early in the evening, the vote was taken. The General Assembly adopted the resolution, 37-12, with 9 abstentions, whereupon Dr. Evatt declared Israel a member of the United Nations. At this juncture, the representatives of the six Arab states left the Assembly. The representative of the Dominican Republic officially welcomed the new member, and Israel's Foreign Minister, Moshe Sharett, made the first Israeli speech in the Assembly. He was then escorted to his country's seat.

This was the crowning achievement of a one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine-year-old dream, fifty-two years of concerted Zionist effort, and a two-year active struggle. Israel's admission to the United Nations involved more than legal issues; the restoration of the dignity of a homeless and stateless people was at stake. The representative of the United States recognized this, and in advocating before the Security Council that approval be given to the application, he said: "All the members of the Security Council and all the members of the United Nations realize that something more than questions of legal concepts and of provisions in a document is being dealt with in this case. . . . The Security

Council is dealing here with the desire of a people, who laboriously constructed a community, an authority and, finally, a government operating in an independent state, to see the state which they have thus arduously built take its place among the members of the United Nations." It was this burning desire to acquire the status of national equality, as well as the desire to participate—modest as such participation might be—in the great effort on behalf of world peace and international comity, that prompted Israel to seek membership in the United Nations. And it was in this spirit that her Foreign Minister addressed the Assembly. "This is, indeed, a great moment for the State of Israel. It is a great moment for the Jewish people throughout the world. . . . The admission of Israel to this Assembly is the consummation of a people's transition from political anonymity to clear identity; from inferior to equal status; from mere passive protest to active responsibility; from exclusion to membership in the family of nations." In concluding he said: "We are a young nation, but an ancient people. We are beginners in the art of statecraft. But it is our privilege and responsibility to be able to draw upon a rich and varied stock of universal experience. We enter this General Assembly, which represents the collective statesmanship of the world, in a spirit of humility, anxious for guidance and enlightenment. We hope that our ability to learn may be enhanced by the ancient teachings and age-old aspirations of the Jewish people. May it be recalled . . . that it was the prophets of Israel who bequeathed to the world the vision of a time when 'nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.'"

## Recognition of Israel<sup>1</sup>

ROUMANIA (June 11, 1948)

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your [Sharett] telegram of June 9 in which you make known the proclamation of the State of Israel and request recognition of the State and of its Provisional Government by the People's Republic of Roumania. Taking note of your communication, the Government of the People's Republic of Roumania has decided to recognize officially the State of Israel and its Provisional Government.

We hail the establishment of the new independent state and hope that friendly relations will develop be-

<sup>1</sup> For official statements of recognition already published, see *Palestine Affairs*, 55-56, May, 1948; 147-149, Dec., 1948; 7-8, Jan., 1949; and 34-36, Mar., 1949. Albania, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Cuba, Greece, Italy, Liberia, Mexico, Norway, the Philippines and Switzerland have also recognized Israel; their official statements will appear in forthcoming issues.

tween the People's Republic of Roumania and the State of Israel.

In the name of the People's Republic of Roumania,

ANA PAUKER

*Minister of Foreign Affairs*

VENEZUELA (June 26, 1948)

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your telegram announcing the proclamation of the State of Israel. I take pleasure in informing you that the National Government has decided to accord official recognition to the State of Israel and its Provisional Government.

May I at the same time express to Your Excellency my thanks for your courteous words concerning the activity



of the Venezuela delegation before the United Nations.

With my highest consideration,

ANDRES BLANCO  
*Minister of Foreign Affairs*

#### BULGARIA

Sofia, 29 November, 1948

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria has decided to recognize the State of Israel and to establish diplomatic relations with her in the near future.

VASSIL KOLAROV  
*Vice-President Council of Ministers  
and Minister of Foreign Affairs*

#### AUSTRALIA (January 28, 1949)

The Government of Australia has decided to accord full recognition to the Government of Israel.

This action derives in the first place from the basic United Nations Assembly decision of November, 1947, adopting the plan for partition of Palestine as recommended by the special Palestine Committee of the Assembly presided over by the Australian Minister for External Affairs, Dr. Evatt.

In principle, that decision remains fully effective and it included a recommendation of the Assembly that the new State of Israel's application for membership of the United Nations should be sympathetically considered.

As is well known, it is the policy of the Australian Government to give unwavering support to the decisions of the United Nations.

Since the Assembly decision the State of Israel has come into formal existence, a provisional government has been formed and democratic elections have recently been conducted. It is clear that the new State has come to stay.

The Government of Australia believes that the new nation of Israel will be a force of special value in the world community and it confidently looks to Israel to assist in carrying out the United Nations decision declaring the special international status of Jerusalem as the Holy City.

When the application of Israel comes before the General Assembly, Australia will warmly support the admission of Israel to the United Nations.

J. B. CHIFLEY  
*Prime Minister*

#### DENMARK (February 2, 1949)

I have the honor to inform you that the Danish Government has decided to recognize *de facto* the Govern-

ment of Israel. I have so advised M. Yeshayahu Wolfberg.

GUSTAV RASMUSSEN  
*Minister of Foreign Affairs*

#### ECUADOR

Quito, 2 February, 1949

It gives me great pleasure to inform Your Excellency that the Government of Ecuador today decided to recognize the State of Israel as a member of the family of nations.

It is the ardent desire of the Ecuadorian Government to maintain with your Excellency's Government the most cordial relations to the mutual benefit of both peoples. I am honored to express my most fervent wishes for the growth and prosperity of the State of Israel and for the happiness of your illustrious President and of your Excellency.

L. NAPTALI PONCE  
*Minister of Foreign Relations*

#### CHILE

Santiago de Chile, 5 February, 1949

I have the honor to bring to Your Excellency's notice the fact that the Government of Chile has decided to recognize the existence of the State of Israel. My Government cherishes the hope that the State of Israel will contribute to the maintenance of peace and justice among the nations.

Please accept the expression of my highest consideration.

GERMAN RIESCO  
*Minister for Foreign Affairs*

#### ICELAND (February 11, 1949)

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the Government of Iceland hereby extends a *de facto* recognition to the State of Israel.

BJARNI BENEDIKTSSON  
*Minister for Foreign Affairs*

#### PERU

Lima, 9 February, 1949

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that my Government has taken note of your communication about the establishment of a National Jewish State under the name of Israel. I take pleasure in informing Your Excellency about the decision to recognize the State of Israel and to initiate and maintain with her the most cordial relations within the assembly of all nations.

I take this opportunity to offer Your Excellency the expression of my highest consideration.

FEDERICO DIAZ DULANTO, *Rear Admiral*  
*Minister of Foreign Relations*

PALESTINE AFFAIRS



## ARGENTINA

### THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

Decree No. 3668

Buenos Aires, 14 February, 1949

#### WHEREAS:

Resolution No. 181 passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its Second Regular Session on November 29, 1947, created the Jewish State in Palestine; and

The existence of the State of Israel, brought about as a consequence of the aforementioned Resolution, is an evident fact; and

It is ruled by its own Governmental authorities; and

In the elections of January 25, 1949, the people of Israel elected their Constituent Assembly; and

The State of Israel possesses the constitutional elements of a sovereign State, in accordance with the solemn rules of international law,

The President of the People of Argentina, with the consent of the Cabinet, decrees:

*Article 1:* That the State of Israel be recognized as a sovereign State.

*Article 2:* That this action be made known to the General Administration of National Registry and Archives.

Signed: PERON

Angel G. Borlenghi, J. Atilio Bramuglia, Belisario Gache Pirán, Ramón Antonio Cereiño, Enrique B. García, Humberto Sosa Molina, Juan Pistarini, José C. Barro, Roberto Ares, Ramón Carrillo, Juan F. Castro, Alfredo Gómez Morales, Oscar Ivanissevich, Carlos A. Emery.

HAITI (March 14, 1949)

Washington, D. C.

The Ambassador of Haiti presents his compliments to the Special Representative [Elath] of the State of Israel.

In reference to the request made in behalf of his Government, he has the honor to inform him that the Government of Haiti recognized the State of Israel on February 26 of this year.

The Ambassador of Haiti takes this opportunity to express his best wishes for a good future and for the prosperity of the State of Israel and to present his highest respects to the Special Representative.

JOSEPH D. CHARLES

Ambassador

AUSTRIA (March 15, 1949)

I am pleased to inform Your Excellency that the Austrian Federal Government has given *de facto* recognition to the State of Israel. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to give expression to my hope that the resumption of normal relations between our two countries will prove possible in the near future.

KARL GRUBER

Foreign Minister

FINLAND (March 18, 1949)

Referring to your telegram, I have the honor to communicate to you the order of the President of the Republic that the Government of Finland has recognized *de jure* the independence of the State of Israel.

UUNO TAKKI

Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs

TURKEY (March 28, 1949)

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the Government of the Turkish Republic has decided to recognize *de facto* the State of Israel. This recognition, which does not prejudice the question of the delimitation of the frontiers of the new State, will be effective as soon as the Israeli Government advises the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey of the receipt of this notification.

Please be assured, Mr. Minister, of the assurances of my very high consideration.

NECMEDDIN SADAK

Minister of Foreign Affairs

## The Middle East—Review of Events

April 16 to May 15, 1949

By M. Perlmann

THE EARLY part of May marked the anniversary of the promulgation of the State of Israel. During its first year, Israel succeeded in setting up state machinery, first on a provisional and then on a democratic, parliamentary basis; in defeating the Arab armies that attacked her; and, after overcoming a multi-

plicity of diplomatic machinations, in becoming a member of the United Nations.

On the home front, her greatest achievement was the admission of 220,000 immigrants. The strain and dislocation of warfare, combined with the influx of such a large number of newcomers who had to be fed and



housed and absorbed into the country's economy, inevitably created a chain of economic difficulties. With at least fifty per cent of the food having to be imported, with adequate housing lacking, and with the process of the absorption of the immigrants necessarily accompanied by tremendous readjustments, the Government was obliged to institute an austerity regime.

Funds belonging both to the State and to its citizens which had been frozen by the British Government are the main subject of the discussions that are taking place, apparently with some positive results, in London. There are reports that the negotiations will result in Israel's inclusion in the sterling bloc.

The United Nations Conciliation Commission, sitting in Lausanne, listened to the presentations of the Arab delegations, which urged that Israel be forced to permit the return of Arab refugees; to Israeli suggestions that in the order of problems to be dealt with, collectively by the UN and especially by its Arab members in conjunction with Israel, peace be considered first; and to representatives of a number of refugee groups who warned that there would be violent upheavals in the Middle East. These groups dissociated themselves in sharply couched statements from the representatives of the Arab states.

In Arab ranks, the sullen mood engendered by military defeat, frustrations and continued internal bickering prevailed. The instability of the Syrian Republic, demonstrated by the change of regime, the general dissension between Jordan and the other members of the Arab League, Iraq's dubious position in this conflict, augur ill for the reconstruction of the Arab League. While on the one hand there is a mood of rejection of the League as an instrument of politics, notably in Egypt, on the other hand there is an attempt to change its character. Some insist on military alliances between the Arab states as the prerequisite for the rise of a powerful Arab front; others believe friction between the Arab countries would be minimized if League resolutions were less binding and the influence of the Secretary General, who has been the League's driving force, were reduced. Iraq and Jordan would like League member-states to have the right to conclude pacts without League approval; other League members are opposed to this as a possible loophole for the establishment of a Hashimi bloc. The Iraqi Foreign Minister spoke recently on federalism as a mould for Arab unification. Jordan is not giving up the Greater Syria scheme.

An Amman court sentenced to death three men charged with conspiring against the life of King Abdullah; during the trial, the President of Syria, the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem and other personages were implicated. The

Cabinet was reshuffled to include three representatives of the Palestine Arabs, thus further formalizing the hoped-for inclusion of Arab Palestine in the Jordan Kingdom. To strengthen his position in Palestine still more, Abdullah announced development schemes which would make it possible for Jordan to absorb a great number of refugees. British financial support for these projects has been indicated, and a loan for the initial stages of development was approved by London.

Jordan suffered a setback when the new Syrian authorities closed the frontier between the two countries for a day, and General Husni Zayim, sneering at Abdullah's pretensions, said bluntly that some day he expected Jordan to unite with the Republic of Syria. At the same time, Faris el Khouri, Syria's elder statesman, characterized Abdullah's expectations as "futile personal ambitions unworthy of serious consideration. . . . Instead of nursing such antiquated ambitions, let us strengthen our League by military alliances." These attacks came a few days after the recognition of the Zayim regime by Egypt, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, and after Zayim's sudden visit to King Farouk of Egypt.

Despite recognition by Great Britain and the United States, the Zayim regime ran into difficulties with American oil interests. Syria was reported to be urging construction of a new pipeline to Latakia, which would become an important harbor; at the same time, she wanted larger royalties for permitting passage of the pipe through her territory. After some wrangling and irritation, she finally signed the agreement with the oil company, and both she and Lebanon are looking forward to substantial economic gains. The pipeline will terminate at Sidon, in Lebanon.

The Lebanese opposition, with Camille Chamoun acting as mediator, tried to negotiate a conciliation with the powers-that-be, but no results are apparent.

While relations between Syria and her Hashimi neighbor to the south were strained, relations with Iraq seemed to be normal; indeed, Iraq was the first to recognize the new regime. Foreign Minister Fadel Jamali of Iraq declared that the Arabs should unite in the struggle against Communism and Zionism; he noted, however, that such a struggle could be waged by the Arabs only if they were efficient in radically modernizing their society. This is also the attitude of the new Syrian leader.

In Iran, another border clash with the Russians, the closing of Soviet consulates, and on the home front the sentencing of several members of the Tudeh party to long prison terms for anti-monarchist activity and for spreading Marxist ideology, were further signs of tension



in the country's relations with the U.S.S.R. The Government is demanding from Russia payment of huge sums owing to Iran for wartime supplies and services to the Soviet forces. Apparently the Russians suggested that Iran should buy goods from them chargeable against this debt, but the Teheran Government is not willing to do so. At the same time, Iran is demanding larger royalties

from and a greater share of influence in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

The Constituent Assembly granted the Shah the right to dissolve Parliament in certain situations.

Martial law in Egypt was prolonged for another year.

## Membership of the Knesset<sup>1</sup>

AHARONOVITZ, ZALMAN (M), general secretary of Mapai, member of the Histadrut Executive and for many years head of its Cultural Dept. b. 1890; m. Author of publications on education.

ASSAF, AMI (M), b. 1902. Member of Kfar Yehoshua settlement.

BADER, MENACHEM (Map.), Director-General of the Ministry of Labor and Reconstruction in the Provisional Government since its establishment on May 14, 1948; active in agricultural affairs. During World War II was among the organizers of uncertificated immigration to Palestine. b. Poland, 1895; m.; high school education. Came to Palestine in 1920; member of Mizra communal settlement.

BADER, DR. YOCHANAN (H), journalist, editor of the Herut party's paper *Herut*; formerly on the *Hamashkif* editorial staff. b. 1901, m.

BAHIR, ARIEH (M), b. 1906. Member of Afikim communal settlement.

BARATZ, YOSEF (M), farmer, member of the Histadrut Executive, active in soldiers' and ex-servicemen's welfare work. b. Kusnitsa (Ukraine), May 1890; m., four sons, three daughters; religious education. In Palestine since 1906; founder and member of Degania A settlement. Writes on agricultural subjects.

BAR-NIR, DOV (Map.), Hashomer Hatzair leader and ideologist, author and journalist. b. 1911; m.; high school education. Came to Palestine from Belgium in 1932.

BAR-RAV-HAY, DAVID (M), lawyer, leader of the Haifa Jewish Community Council. b. Russia, 1894; m., one son. Education: universities in Germany and Russia. In Palestine since 1924.

BEIGIN, MENACHEM (H), head of the Herut party and former commander in chief of the Irgun Zvai Leumi. b. 1913 in Brest Litovsk (Russia); m., one son, two daughters. Education: religious school, high school in Brest Litovsk and Warsaw University. Joined Jabotinsky's Betar youth movement in 1928; came to Palestine as a conscript in the Polish Army from Russia.

BEN AHARON, YITZHAK (Map.), Mapam leader, at one time secretary of the Tel Aviv Labor Council. b. Austria, 1906. Came to Palestine in 1928; member of Givat Chaim communal settlement. In World War II was one of the first Jewish volunteers for the British Army; was taken prisoner in Greece in 1940.

BEN AMI, MOSHE (S), lawyer, active in communal affairs. b. 1899; m.; high school education.

BEN ASHER, CHAIM (M), active in the Kibbutz Hameuchad settlement movement, member Givat Brenner settlement, on Central Committee of Mapai. b. 1904; m.

BEN ELIEZER, ARIEH (H), b. 1913. Active in Herut movement.

BEN GURION, DAVID (M), Prime Minister and Minister of Defense in the Provisional Government since its establishment on May 14, 1948, Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive from 1935 until Aug. 1948. b. Plonsk (Poland), Dec. 16, 1886; m., one son, two daughters. Educated privately, in religious school, Istanbul University Faculty of Law. In Palestine since 1906; was for some years an agricultural laborer and watchman; exiled by Jamal Pasha in 1915, he went to the U. S. where he founded the Hechalutz movement and was active in recruiting men for the Jewish Legion; served in the Legion until its disbandment. One of the central figures in the Palestine Jewish labor movement since 1920 and prominent in all its institutions; for many years general secretary of the General Federation of Jewish Labor (Histadrut). Author of a number of publications, mainly on social problems.

BENTOV, MORDECAI (Map.), Minister of Labor and Reconstruction in the Provisional Government since its establishment on May 14, 1948, former editor of the daily newspaper, *Al Hamishmar*. b. Poland, Mar. 1900; m., two daughters. Education: Warsaw University, Jerusalem Law Classes. Member of Histadrut Executive, delegate to various Zionist congresses, member of Jewish delegation to the 1939 London Round Table Conference, member of the Mishmar Haemek settlement.

BEN-ZVI, YITZHAK (M), well known oriental scholar, President of the Vaad Leumi for many years, member of State Council of Provisional Government since its establishment on May 14, 1948. Active in Mapai and Histadrut. b. Poltava (Russia), Nov. 24, 1894; m., two sons. Education: secondary school, Kiev University, Istanbul University Faculty of Law. Took a prominent part in German, Russian and Swiss Zionist Socialist movements. Settled in Palestine in 1907; during World War I was exiled by Jamal Pasha, went to the U. S. where he was active in Zionist organizations and in recruiting for the Jewish Legion, in which he enlisted in 1918. A founder of Histadrut and the Vaad Leumi, on whose praesidium he served from its inception in 1920. Author of many publications, mainly on archaeology.

BERNSTEIN, FRITZ (G), Minister of Trade and Industry in the Provisional Government since its establishment on May 14, 1948, former member of the Jewish Agency

<sup>1</sup> For identification of the various parties and their ideologies, see "The Political Pattern of Israel," *Palestine Affairs*, 19-22, Feb., 1949.

C—Israeli Communist Party	Map.—Mapam
G—General Zionist Party	P—Progressive Party
H—Herut	R—United Religious Bloc
M—Mapai	S—Union of Sephardic Jews and Oriental Communities



- Executive, founder and former editor of the daily newspaper *Haboker*, president of the General Zionist Organization. b. Meiningen (Holland), June 1890; m., four children. Educated at Meiningen and Eisenach. President of Dutch Zionist Organization, 1930-1934. In Palestine since 1936. Author of a number of philosophical treatises.
- BURG, DR. JOSEF (R), Hapoel Hamizrachi leader, delegate to many Zionist congresses. b. 1911; m.
- CHAZAN, JACOB (*Map.*), a founder of the Kibbutz Haartzi, Mishmar Haemek, and the Hashomer Hatzair; active Mapam leader, member of the Histadrut Executive, member of Board of Directors of the Jewish National Fund. b. Brest Litovsk (Russia), Apr. 1899; m., three daughters. Education: high school and technical college in Poland. In Palestine since 1923.
- CHUSHI, ABBA (M), secretary of the Haifa Labor Council, member of the Histadrut Executive, active in fostering Histadrut ties with the Arabs. b. 1898; m.
- COHEN, CHAIM (H), farmer; former Irgun Zvai Leumi commander. b. 1913.
- COHEN, IDOV (P), journalist and author, member of the Histadrut Executive and active in the Oved Hatzioni group; director of the Jewish National Fund's Information Dept. b. Roumania, 1909; m.; high school education. Came to Palestine after World War II.
- DAYAN, SHMUEL (M), member of the Histadrut Executive and director of various Histadrut agricultural projects. b. Yashkov (Ukraine), Aug. 7, 1891; m., two sons (one of them is Moshe Dayan, commander of the Israeli forces in Jerusalem), one daughter. In Palestine since 1908; among the first settlers of Degania and a founder and settler of Nahalal. Author of many works on agricultural problems.
- DINABURG, BEN ZION (M), well known author, educationalist and historian; director of the Hebrew Teachers College, professor of modern Jewish history at the Hebrew University. b. Khoron (Russia), Dec. 1883. Educated at Berlin and Berne Universities. In Palestine since 1921.
- DRORI, HASSIA (M), b. 1899. Member of the Kfar Yehzekel settlement.
- DUVDEVANI, YECHIEL (M), b. Russia, 1895. Member of the Histadrut Executive, leader of Mapai. In World War II served with the Jewish Brigade group; member of Givat Hashloshah communal settlement.
- ELIASHAR, ELIAHU (S), member of many local economic and financial companies; active in affairs of the Sephardic Jewish community. b. Jerusalem, Oct. 1899; m., one son. Education: French University at Beirut, Jerusalem Law Classes. Senior government official between 1932-1934.
- ELMALEH, ABRAHAM (S), author and journalist, member of Jerusalem Municipal Council, active in Sephardic affairs and also in French cultural affairs in Palestine; holder of the French Legion of Honor. b. Jerusalem, Apr. 1885; m., two sons, one daughter. Education: Alliance School, Jerusalem, and Istanbul University. Headmaster of school in Damascus, 1905-1913; editor of a number of Hebrew publications; at one time head of the Zionist Organization's Press Dept.; author of several dictionaries and French and Hebrew books.
- EL ZABI, MOHAMMED SAID SEIF EL DIN (*Arab Democratic List*), farmer. b. 1913.
- EPHRATY, YOSEF (M), b. 1897, member of Geva communal settlement.
- EREM, MOSHE (*Map.*), a senior official in the Ministry of Minorities in the Provisional Government since its establishment on May 14, 1948, member of the Histadrut Executive, a founder of the Poale Zion (left) Party, journalist. b. Russia, July 1896. Education: Leningrad and Moscow Universities. Headmaster of several schools in Russia, served as a labor commissar under Soviet rule in Poland. In Palestine since 1924.
- FISHMAN, ADA (M), founder and director of the Girls' Training Farm at Ayanoth, member of the Histadrut Executive. b. Marculehti (Roumania), Aug. 1893. In Palestine since 1912; an outstanding proponent of the Women Workers' movement.
- FISHMAN, RABBI JUDAH LEIB (R), Minister of Religious Affairs in the Provisional Government of Israel since its establishment on May 14, 1948, deputy chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive 1935-1948, president of the Central Committee of the World Mizrahi Organization. b. Marculehti (Roumania), Dec. 1875; m., one daughter. Ordained 1905; a founder of the Mizrahi movement. In Palestine since 1913; during World War I was condemned to death by Jamal Pasha but was later freed and exiled to Egypt; went to the U. S. where he remained until the end of the war. Author of many publications on religious affairs and owner of one of the largest private libraries on Jewish scholarship in the world.
- FOERDER, DR. HERBERT (P), Food Controller; director of the Rassco Housing Co., one of the founders of the Aliyah Hadashah Party. b. Charlottenburg (Germany), Mar. 1901; m., one daughter. Education: Freiburg, Heidelberg and Koenigsberg Universities. Came to Palestine in 1935.
- FRIEDMAN-YELLIN, NATHAN (*Fighters and Soldiers*), former commander of the Stern Group, engineer and journalist. b. Poland, 1913; m., one son.
- FRUMKIN, HERSCHEL (M), Histadrut's economic expert, member of the Histadrut Executive, a director of many Histadrut economic institutions, author and journalist. b. Russia 1896; m.; high school education.
- GALILI, ISRAEL (*Map.*), former commander in chief of Haganah and prominent in the organization since early youth, active in agricultural settlement movements. b. in Jaffa, 1907; m.; secondary school education. One of the founders of Na'an settlement.
- GENEHOVSKY, ELIAHU MOSHE (R), leader of Hapoel Hamizrachi. b. 1904; m.
- GIL [LIFSHITZ], DR. JACOB (G), b. Tiberias, 1908; m., one son, two daughters. Education: Hebrew University; ordained rabbi, 1927. Chaplain to Jewish Brigade group, author.
- GLUBMAN, AKIBA (M), member of the Histadrut Executive and head of its Trade Union Dept. b. Shpikov (Russia), Oct. 12, 1902. Education: Russian high school. In Palestine since 1922.
- GLUSKA, ZECHARYAHU (*Yemenites*), leader of Israel's Yemenite community since 1925. Delegate to a number of Zionist congresses and member of several missions to the U. S. b. Yemer, Aug. 1896; m.
- GOLDRAT, ABRAHAM (R), leader of Agudat Israel labor organization. b. 1912.
- GOREN, SHRACA (M), secretary of the Cooperative Center, one of the best-known promoters of the cooperative movement, member of the Histadrut Executive. b. Russia, 1898; high school education; m., two sons.
- GORFINKEL, ISRAEL (M), member of the Histadrut Executive, former director of the Histadrut Controller's Office, member of the Tel Aviv Municipal Council, member of Histadrut's Education Committee. b. 1891; m., two sons.



- GRABOVSKY, MEIR (M), member of the State Council of the Provisional Government since its establishment on May 14, 1948, member of the Histadrut Executive, chairman of the Union of Israel Labor Exchanges, active in Histadrut's Trade Union Dept. b. 1903. Served in the Jewish Brigade during World War II.
- GRANOVSKY, DR. ABRAHAM (P), deputy chairman of the Provisional Government's State Council since its establishment on May 14, 1948, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Jewish National Fund, director of a number of local cultural and economic institutions. b. Bessarabia, June 19, 1890; m., one son, one daughter. Education: Freiburg and Lausanne Universities. Joined the JNF staff in 1919, appointed managing director in 1925 and chairman of the Board in 1945. Author of publications on Palestine's land problems.
- GREENBERG, AHARON YAACOV (R), member of Hapoel Hamizrachi, member of the Jewish Agency's Political Advisory Committee at Lake Success in 1947. b. 1900.
- GRUENBERG, URI ZVI (H), b. 1894; distinguished poet and journalist.
- HACARMELI, ELIAHU (M), b. 1892. Member of the Histadrut Executive, head of Histadrut's Oriental Communities Dept.
- HACOHEN, DAVID (M), one of the founders and general manager of Solel Boneh; member of the Haifa Municipal Council, Histadrut Executive and Mapai; director of many Histadrut institutions. b. Homel (Russia), Oct. 10, 1898; m., one son, two daughters. Education: Hertzliyah High School, Tel Aviv; military school, Istanbul; London School of Economics. Came to Palestine in 1907; imprisoned in Latrun in 1946.
- HARAI, LT. COL. YIZHAR (P), lawyer and former member of Executive of the General Zionist Organization. b. Jaffa, July 1908; m., one son, one daughter. Education: Hertzliyah High School, Tel Aviv; Sorbonne, Paris; Jerusalem Law Classes; London School of Economics.
- HARPAZ, NATHAN (M), member of the Histadrut Executive and on the Boards of Management of many of Histadrut's agricultural and economic institutions. b. Poland, 1890; m., one son, one daughter.
- HARZFELD, AVRAHAM (M), head of Histadrut's Agricultural Center and director of many Histadrut enterprises. b. Stavitz (Ukraine), June 1888. Religious education. Arrested as a revolutionary and sentenced to Siberia for life, escaped and came to Palestine in 1914; chief promoter of the agricultural settlement. Member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish National Fund.
- IDELSON, BEBA (M), b. Russia, 1886; secretary of the Women Workers' Council, member of the Histadrut Executive, leading member of Mapai, active in social welfare organizations.
- IDELSON, ISRAEL (Map.), active in agricultural affairs, one of the founders of the former Achdut Haavodah movement, Mapam leader. b. Poland, 1896; secondary education. Member of Yagor communal settlement.
- ILANIT, FEIGE (Map.), active in Women Workers' movement. b. Poland, 1909; secondary education. Came to Palestine in 1919; member of Gan Shmuel settlement.
- JABOTINSKY, ERI (H), son of Vladimir Jabotinsky, founder of the Revisionist movement. Writer and author; served in the Israeli Defense Army. b. 1910; m.
- JARJURA, EMIN SALIM (*Arab Democratic List*), magistrate. b. 1894. Education: Jerusalem Law Classes.
- JOSEPH, DOV, PH.D., LL.B., (M), Military Governor of Jerusalem until Jan. 1949, formerly legal adviser to the Jewish Agency and acting head of its Political Dept. b. Montreal, 1890; m., one son, two daughters. Education: London and McGill Universities. Settled in Palestine in 1921; sent abroad on several important missions for the Jewish Agency; imprisoned in Latrun in 1946.
- KAGAN, RAHEL (WIZO), in State Council of Provisional Government from its establishment on May 14, 1948, active in social welfare work, former head of the Vaad Leumi's Dept. of Social Welfare, head of the WIZO. b. 1889.
- KAHANE, RABBI KALMAN (R), in State Council of Provisional Government from its establishment on May 14, 1948, leader of the Agudat Israel labor organization and head of its agricultural wing; member of Chafetz Chaim communal settlement. b. 1910; m.; religious and general education.
- KAPLAN, ELIEZER (M), civil engineer, Minister of Finance in the Provisional Government of Israel since its establishment on May 14, 1948, member of Executive of the Jewish Agency and Treasurer from 1933 to 1948, on the boards of directors of numerous Agency-sponsored economic enterprises, member of Histadrut Executive and Tel Aviv Municipal Council. b. Minsk (Russia), Jan. 27, 1891; m., one son, one daughter. Education: religious school, high school and technical college in Moscow. In Palestine since 1923.
- KATZ, SHMUEL (H), former Irgun Zvai Leumi commander; journalist on the staff of the *Herut*. b. 1914.
- KELMER, MOSHE (R), member of Hapoel Hamizrachi and in charge of its housing activities. b. 1903.
- KLEBANOFF, JACOB (G), lawyer and leader of General Zionists. Education: Leningrad and Kazan Universities. Member of the Executive of the Zionist Organization in Russia. In Palestine since 1921. b. Minsk (Russia), 1887.
- KOOK, HILLEL (H), of the American Hebrew Committee for National Liberation. b. in Israel, 1911; m.
- KOSSOY, YONAH (M), b. Russia, 1906; m. Member of the Histadrut Executive and of Central Committee of Mapai; secretary of the World Union of Poale Zion Parties.
- LAMDAN, HANNAH (Map.), a leader of the Mapam party, active in the Women Workers' movement. b. Roumania, 1905; secondary school education. Came to Palestine in 1925.
- LAMM, JOSEF (M), magistrate, former leader of the Aliyah Hadashah party, and head of its labor faction; member of the Histadrut Executive. b. 1899; m.
- LANDOW, CHAIM (H), one of Irgun Zvai Leumi's senior commanders. b. in Germany, 1916; m.
- LAVI, SHLOMO (M), agriculturist and a leader in the Histadrut. b. Plonsk (Poland), 1885. Religious education. In Palestine since 1904; founder and member of Ain Harod and one of the founders of the kibbutz movement. Served in the Jewish Legion during World War I; writer on settlement problems.
- LENKIN, ELIAHU (H), former Irgun Zvai Leumi commander, served with the Israeli Defense Army. b. Poland, 1914.
- LEVENSTEIN, MEIR DAVID (R), member of State Council of Provisional Government since its establishment on May 14, 1948, leader of Agudat Israel. b. 1901; m.
- LEVIN, RABBI YITZHAK MEIR (R), Minister of Social Welfare in the Provisional Government of Israel since its establishment on May 14, 1948, chairman of the Agudat Israel World Executive, a leader of Polish Jewry and for many years member of the Polish Parliament. b. Poland, 1894; m.; religious education.



- LIEBENSTEIN, ELIEZER (M), editor of the Mapai daily newspaper *Hador* and one of the party's leading ideologists, member of the Histadrut Executive. Served on many missions abroad for the party and Histadrut. b. 1902; m., two children.
- LUBIANIKER, PINCHAS (M), member of the Histadrut Executive and prominent in Mapai. b. Kopycynce (Poland), 1904; m. Writes on social affairs; delegate of Histadrut and Mapai to a number of conferences abroad.
- MERIDOR, YAACOV (H), deputy commander of Irgun Zvai Leumi, detained for several years in various prison camps; also detained in exile in Kenya. b. 1913; m., two sons.
- MERLIN, SHMUEL (H), of the American Hebrew Committee for National Liberation. b. 1910; m.
- MEYERSON, GOLDA (M), first Israeli Minister to Moscow, on State Council of Provisional Government since its establishment on May 14, 1948, former member of the Jewish Agency Political Dept. b. Kiev (Russia), May 3, 1898; m., one son, one daughter. Education: secondary school, Teachers College, Milwaukee, Wisc. Emigrated to U. S. in 1906 and was prominent in Zionist organizations there from 1915. Settled in Palestine, 1921; agricultural laborer until 1924; director of Histadrut's contracting organization, Solel Boneh until 1926; on Histadrut Executive since 1928, and served for a time as general secretary of the organization; delegate to Zionist congresses since 1929; acting head of the Jewish Agency's Political Dept. during Moshe Shertok's [Sharett] internment in Latrun in 1946; in charge of Political Dept. in Jerusalem in 1947.
- MIKUNIS, SHMUEL (C), engineer, secretary general of the Israeli Communist Party, imprisoned by the Mandatory government for illegal Communist activity. b. Poland, 1904; m.
- MINZ, BENJAMIN (R), leader of the Agudat Israel labor organization and editor of its paper *Sha'arim*; during World War II was active on the Jewish Agency's Rescue Committee for European Jews. b. 1903; m.
- NAFTHALI, FRITZ (M), managing director of the Workers Bank, member of the Histadrut Executive and the Tel Aviv Municipal Council. b. Berlin, Mar. 29, 1888; m., one daughter. Educated at Berlin University; in Palestine since 1933. Author of many publications on economic subjects.
- NETZER, DVORAH (M), teacher and active in the Women Workers' movement and in the Working Mothers' Association. b. Russia, 1897.
- NIR-RAFALKES, NAHUM (Map.), lawyer, a founder of the Poale Zion movement, deputy chairman of the Provisional Government's State Council since its establishment on May 14, 1948. b. Warsaw, Mar. 1884; m., two daughters. Education: Warsaw, Leningrad, Zurich Universities. In Palestine since 1929. Noted author on labor affairs.
- NUROK, RABBI DR. MORDECAI (R), leader of the Mizrahi organization, Minister for Jewish Affairs in the Lithuanian Government, well-known authority on religious law and education, delegate to most of the Zionist congresses. b. Lithuania, 1884; m., two sons.
- PERSITZ, SHOSHANNAH (G), publisher and author, authority on educational matters. b. Kiev (Ukraine), Nov. 1893; m., one son, three daughters. Education: Moscow and Paris Universities. For many years a member of the Central Committee of the Russian Zionist Organization. In Palestine since 1926; member of the Tel Aviv Municipal Council 1926-1933.
- PINCHAS, DAVID ZVI (R), leader of the Mizrahi organization, member of the Tel Aviv Municipal Council, on State Council of Provisional Government since its establishment on May 14, 1948. b. Hungary, Dec. 6, 1895; m., one son, one daughter. Education: Vienna University and Rabbinical Seminary. In Palestine since 1925.
- PRAI, ELAZAR (Map.), editor of *Al Hamishmar*, active in the Hashomer Hatzair movement. b. Galicia, Feb. 1902; m.; graduate of the Teachers College in Galicia. Member of Merhavia communal settlement.
- PREMINGER, ELIEZER (C), surveyor. b. 1921; m.
- RAZIEL-NAOR, ESTHER (H), b. 1912. Widow of David Raziel, Irgun Zvai Leumi commander killed in action in Iraq during a British commando raid against Rashid Ali Gailani's forces.
- REKANATI, ABRAHAM (H), insurance agent. b. 1888.
- REMEZ, DAVID (M), Minister of Communications and Chairman of the Cabinet Subcommittee on Education in the Provisional Government since its establishment on May 14, 1948; chairman of the Vaad Leumi Executive, and former general secretary of Histadrut. b. Copees (Russia), Apr. 1886; m., one son. Education: Russian high school, Istanbul University Law School. In Palestine since 1913; worked as agricultural laborer, founder of a number of Histadrut enterprises. Interned in Latrun in 1946.
- REPETUR, BERL (Map.), Mapam leader, member of the Histadrut Executive and on State Council of Provisional Government since its establishment on May 14, 1948. b. Rozin (Ukraine), Aug. 1901. In Palestine since 1921.
- RIFTIN, YAAKOV (Map.), member of the Histadrut Executive, leader of Mapam. b. Poland, 1901; high school education; m. Came to Palestine in 1927; active in Hashomer Hatzair, member of Ain Shemer communal settlement.
- ROKACH, ISRAEL (G), civil engineer, Mayor of Tel Aviv. b. Jaffa, Dec. 1896; m., two daughters. Education: technical institutes in Lausanne and Zurich. Tel Aviv Municipal Councillor since 1922 and Mayor since 1936.
- ROSENBLUTH, FELIX (P), Minister of Justice in Provisional Government since its establishment on May 14, 1948, leader of the Progressive Party. b. Berlin, May 1887. Education: Freiburg and Berlin Universities. President of the German Zionist Federation 1920-1923; member of the Zionist Executive 1926-1931. Settled in Palestine in 1931.
- RUBIN, DR. HANS (Map.), member of the Histadrut Executive, former leader of the Hashomer Hatzair party. b. Berlin, Aug. 1908; m., two daughters. Education: Berlin, Geneva and Freiburg Universities. In Palestine since 1933. Author of articles and pamphlets on Histadrut affairs.
- SAPHIR, YOSEF (G), Mayor of Petach Tikva, active in the Palestine Farmers Federation. b. Jaffa, Jan. 1902; m., two daughters. Education: Teachers College, Jerusalem.
- SERLIN, YOSEF (G), lawyer; active in General Zionist affairs, director of a number of economic undertakings. b. Bialystok (Russia), Feb. 1906; m., two sons. Education: Warsaw University. In Palestine since 1933.
- SHAPIRO, MOSHE (R), Minister of Immigration and Minister of Health in the Provisional Government since its establishment on May 14, 1948, member of the Jewish Agency's Executive for many years, leader of the Hapoel Hamizrachi, a delegate to many Zionist congresses. b. Poland, 1899; m. Religious and general education.
- SHARETT [SHERTOK], MOSHE, B.Sc. (Econ.), (M), Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Provisional Government since its establishment on May 14, 1948; secretary of the



Jewish Agency's Political Dept. 1931-1933, and its head 1933-1948. b. Kherson (Ukraine), Oct. 1894; m., two sons, one daughter. Education: Hertzliyah High School, Tel Aviv; Istanbul University Law Faculty; London School of Economics and Political Science. In Palestine since 1906; during World War I served as an officer with the Turkish Army. Member, Poale Zion Executive in England and its delegate to the British Labor Conferences, 1920-1925; member of the editorial board of *Davar* 1925-1931 and editor of the paper's English weekly. Active during World War II in promoting recruitment of Palestine Jews for the Allied armed forces. Arrested by the Mandatory authorities in June 1946 and sent to Latrun. Head of the Jewish Agency's delegation to the UN, head of the Israeli Government's delegation to the UN General Assembly in Paris, prominent in political life as member of the Executive of Mapai and of the Histadrut.

SHAZAR [RUBASHOV], ZALMAN (M), journalist and labor leader, editor of *Davar*, member of the Histadrut Executive. b. Mir (Russia), Oct. 6, 1889; m., one son. Education: Universities of Leningrad, Freiburg, Strasbourg and Berlin. In Palestine since 1924; active in organizing the labor movement and one of the founders of Mapai. Author of many publications.

SHEFTEL, ARIEH (M), secretary Rishon le Zion Labor Council. b. 1911.

SHITRIT, BEHOR SHALOM (S), Minister of Police and Minister of Minorities in the Provisional Government since its establishment on May 14, 1948, former chief magistrate and senior police officer. b. Tiberias, Jan. 1895; m. Education: Jerusalem Law Classes. Joined Palestine police force in 1920 and served until appointed magistrate.

SHREIBMAN, REUVEN (M), secretary of the Jerusalem Labor Council, vice mayor of Jerusalem. b. Kishinev (Roumania), Apr. 1903; m., three daughters. Education: Jassy University. In Palestine since 1925. Worked as agricultural laborer, was secretary of the Kfar Saba, Rehovot and Jerusalem Labor Councils, member of the Histadrut Executive.

SIMHONIT, YEHUDITH (M), member of the Histadrut Executive and active in the Women Workers' Council, with the Israeli Defense Army. b. 1902; m., one son. Member of Geva communal settlement.

SMILANSKI, YIZHAR (M), b. Rehovot, 1918; m. Teacher and author, served with the Israeli Defense Army.

SNEH, DR. MOSHE (Map.), former Haganah commander, physician, journalist. b. Poland, 1899; m. Education: Warsaw University. Active in the General Zionist Organization in Poland, came to Palestine in 1940; elected to the Jewish Agency Executive in 1945 and resigned in 1947 when he joined Mapam.

SPRINZAK, YOSEF (M), chairman Provisional State Coun-

cil since its establishment on May 14, 1948; general secretary of the Histadrut; member of the praesidium of the Zionist General Council, of Mapai and of many Zionist organizations. b. Russia, 1886; m., three sons, one daughter. Education: schools in Russia and universities in Russia and Switzerland. In Palestine since 1920.

TABENKIN, YITZHAK (Map.), one of the outstanding leaders of Israel's communal settlements system. b. Bobruisk (Russia), 1889; m., two sons, one daughter. Education: Berne University. Came to Palestine in 1910; among the founders of the Kibbutz Meuchad Settlement Association, Achdut Haavodah, Mapai and Mapam, member of Ain Harod communal settlement and Histadrut Executive. Well known author on labor problems.

TABIB, AVRAHAM (M), member of the Histadrut Executive, active in agricultural settlement work. b. 1889.

TABORI, EPHRAIM (M), b. 1900, active in Mapai.

TOUBY, TEWFIQ (C), edited the Arab Communist paper, *al Ittibad*. b. 1922.

UNNA, MOSHE (R), leader of Hapoel Hamizrachi and active in its agricultural affairs, member of Sdeh Eliyahu communal settlement. b. 1904.

WARHAFTIG, ZORACH (R), leader of the Hapoel Hamizrachi, former member of the Vaad Leumi Executive, on State Council of Provisional Government since its establishment on May 14, 1948, authority on rabbinical law. b. 1902; m. Religious and general education. Came to Palestine in 1945 from the U.S.

WILNER, MEIR (C), journalist, on the staff of the Communist daily *Kol Haam*; leader of the Communist Youth Organization. b. 1919.

YAARI, MEIR (Map.), one of the founders and leader of the Hashomer Hatzair movement and of the Kibbutz Hartzit settlement group; member of the Histadrut Executive and delegate to many Zionist congresses. b. Galicia, Apr. 18, 1897. Education: Vienna University. In Palestine since 1920; writer on Socialist subjects.

YEHUDA, ZVI (M), member of the Histadrut Executive, active in agricultural settlement work, one of the founders of Nahalal. b. Russia, 1887; m.

ZISLING, AHARON (Map.), Minister of Agriculture in the Provisional Government since its establishment on May 14, 1948, one of the founders of Achdut Haavodah and Mapai. b. Baronovicz (Russia), Apr. 1901; m., four sons, one daughter; secondary education. In Palestine since 1914. Worked as agricultural laborer; a founder and member of Ain Harod. Delegate to several Zionist congresses.

ZVEBNER, RABBI ABRAHAM CHAIM (R), leader of the Mizrahi organization, bank director. b. 1887; m., two sons.

## Chronology

(Apr. 16 — May 11, 1949)

### EGYPT

Apr. 17: Dessouki Abaza, Minister of Communications, announces that all pending questions between Egypt and Transjordan have been "settled in a satisfactory manner."

Apr. 20: The police announce that enough explosives "to

blow up all of Cairo" had been discovered during a recent search of the city and that twelve members of the Moslem Brotherhood had been arrested.

Apr. 22: The Syrian Premier, Husni Zayim, pays a visit to King Farouk; the latter promises material and moral support to the new Syrian regime.



## GREAT BRITAIN

May 2: Trade and financial talks with Israeli representatives open in London.

## IRAQ

Apr. 30: Foreign Minister Fadel Jamali says that his Government refuses to negotiate directly with Israel so long as the plight of the Arab refugees is not relieved, and that Iraq will not send a delegation to the UN Conciliation Commission conference at Lausanne.

## ISRAEL

Apr. 17: Albania recognizes Israel.

Apr. 19: An Israeli truck is held up by Arabs in the Negev near the Dead Sea; six Israeli passengers are killed and five wounded.

Apr. 23: Pres. Chaim Weizmann declares at a dinner given in his honor in New York that Israel pledges "to ensure full security for religious institutions in the exercise of their functions; to grant the supervision of the holy places by those who hold them sacred; and to encourage and accept the fullest international safeguards and controls for their immunity and protection."

Apr. 26: The Government submits to the Knesset an austerity program which calls for food rationing, ceiling prices and prohibition of luxury imports, to save dollars for the absorption of refugees and vast building projects.

May 4: Israel celebrates the first anniversary of her independence.

### Jerusalem

Apr. 28: Three Israelis are wounded when shooting breaks out between Arab Legionnaires and Israeli troops near the wall of the Old City.

May 1: Local Arabs fight Israeli troops on the southern outskirts of the city when the latter, implementing the terms of the armistice agreement with Transjordan, takes over a stretch of land which had been evacuated by the Arab Legion.

## JORDAN

Apr. 25: King Abdullah inaugurates the Wadi el Arab irrigation project at Shuna, near the Jordan River in northern Transjordan. It is expected that this development will water about 7,500 acres.

May 3: Premier Tewfiq Abul Huda and his cabinet resign. Huda is asked by King Abdullah to form a new government which will include three Palestinian ministers.

## SYRIA

Apr. 16: Gen. Husni Zayim forms a cabinet with himself as Premier, Minister of the Interior and Minister of Defense.

Apr. 17: Iraq grants recognition to the new government.

Apr. 23: Egypt, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia grant recognition.

Apr. 26: Premier Zayim orders Syria's border with Jordan closed. He warns King Abdullah against any attempt to annex Syrian territory, and predicts that Jordan will "sooner or later join our republic."

Apr. 27: The border with Jordan is reopened.

The U. S. and Great Britain recognize the new government.

## UNITED NATIONS

### Conciliation Commission

Apr. 27: The first meeting at Lausanne is held with the Israeli, Egyptian and Lebanese delegations.

Apr. 28: The Syrian delegation meets with the Commission.

Apr. 30: The Jordan delegation arrives at Lausanne.

Dr. Walter Eytan, head of the Israeli delegation, states that Israel will propose a solution to the Arab refugee problem through a major settlement and rehabilitation effort on an international scale.

### Israel's Membership

NOTE: For the development of events, see "Israel—The 59th Member of the United Nations," in this issue.

## UNITED STATES

Apr. 19: Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress and the World Jewish Congress, and Rabbi of the Free Synagogue of New York, dies.

Apr. 25: Pres. Truman entertains Pres. Weizmann of Israel.

Apr. 28: Pres. Weizmann meets Francis Cardinal Spellman, Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York.

May 4: A hundred and fifty thousand persons celebrate the first anniversary of the Jewish State at Madison Square Park in New York. The principal address is made by Pres. Weizmann.

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