

tarian causes vital to the Jewish people. The ECAJ also sought Australian support for the Convention on the Status of Refugees and for the implementation of the Genocide Convention. It was instrumental in arranging the departure from Australia to Bremen of M. Greber, a crown witness for the prosecution against Fritz Hildebrandt, since convicted as a war criminal.

Australian Jewry was affiliated with the World Jewish Congress and in close cooperation with the Board of Deputies of British Jews and other Commonwealth countries. It felt an increased responsibility toward Jews living in the Pacific area. Contacts with communities in India, Pakistan, Singapore, Hongkong, Indonesia, Indochina, Thailand, the Philippines, New Zealand, and other countries had prepared the ground for a conference in Australia organized by the ECAJ on behalf of the World Jewish Congress for the purpose of exchanging views on Jewish problems in the economic, educational, cultural, and religious fields.

Personalia

Abram Landa was elected on February 25, 1953, to the New South Wales State Cabinet and became Minister for Labor, Industry, and Social Welfare. He was the only Jewish minister in Australia.

WOLF SIMON MATSDORF

ISRAEL

THE period under review (July 1, 1952, through June 30, 1953) was for Israel one of consolidation rather than advance on the home front; economic stability appeared nearer, though still far in the future. On the foreign front Israel's position remained a difficult one, and its foreign policy was inevitably fraught with dangers for its security and even existence.

The Domestic Scene

President Chaim Weizmann of Israel died on November 9, 1952. Four weeks later, on December 7, Yitzhak Ben Zvi was sworn in as the second President of Israel.

GOVERNMENT CRISIS AND REORGANIZATION

On September 17, 1952, both the Agudat Israel and Poale Agudat Israel (religious) Parties announced their withdrawal from the government coalition headed by Prime Minister David Ben Gurion of the Mapai (Labor) Party. A prolonged government crisis resulted, in which the problem of relations between religion and state upset the slender parliamentary majority of the coalition. On September 29 the prime minister started a series of

"exploratory" talks with leading members of the General Zionists. These were however broken off after a few days. After lengthy negotiations with the Progressive and General Zionist Parties, Ben Gurion succeeded in forming a new coalition. On December 22 he introduced the new four-party coalition to the Knesset. The new cabinet included nine ministers from Mapai, four General Zionists, one Progressive, and two ministers from the Hapoel Hamizrachi Party. Ben Gurion presented the new government's twenty-point program at this occasion.

This government had stayed in power up to the time of the writing (August 1953). The four General Zionist ministers withdrew from the coalition on May 25, 1953, following a "flag dispute." The Mapai Central Committee had decided the previous night, over Ben Gurion's opposition, that the new Unified Education bill should permit the hoisting of the red flag and the singing of the labor hymn together with the state flag and the national anthem in Labor Zionist schools on May Day and on the Histadrut labor holiday. A ten-day crisis came to an end on June 3, 1953, when the four General Zionist ministers were again sworn in. The prime minister said on this occasion that their resignation had been "a misunderstanding without real basis."

On April 4, 1953, the government decided to reorganize its work by extending the work of the ministerial committees. The establishment of four standing committees was intended to ease the heavy agenda of its plenary meetings. A special ministerial committee to study unemployment was appointed in April. Another government commission dealt with the state of affairs in the Jerusalem municipality during February and March 1953.

NEW LEGISLATION

During 1952-53 the Israel Knesset (parliament), beside passing the budget and debating topical issues of domestic and foreign policy, read and passed a large number of new bills, some of particular significance. Thus, in July 1952 a passport law was adopted; in August the "Oil Law" setting forth the terms for concessions to prospectors, and a number of amendments to various tax laws were passed. One bill which provoked long debates was the Zionist Organizations Status bill, passed on November 24, 1952 (*see* p. 116). This law designated the World Zionist Organization as the authorized agency for the coordination of all settlement and absorption activities by Jewish organizations in Israel. A new draft of a bill for the punishment of crimes against the state was tabled in the Knesset on March 3. It embodied provisions found in the emergency legislation left over from the British Mandatory Government and in laws passed by the Knesset, and provided that the death penalty be imposed for treason in time of war. It had not yet been brought to vote during the period under review. A compulsory property tax law was passed by the Knesset on March 24, 1953. On May 12 the *Yad ve-Shem* Bill was introduced, to establish an "everlasting memorial" in Jerusalem to the six million Jews who had perished in Europe under Nazi domination. Another important law passed was one providing for unified state education (*see below* for details).

UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATION

The public was told by the attorney general on June 6, 1953, about the existence of an underground organization believed responsible for various outrages in previous months. Its members had placed a bomb in the courtyard of the ministry of education, had plotted to bomb the Soviet and Czechoslovak legations in Tel Aviv, and had set fire to the shops of several non-kosher butchers in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. The attorney general told the press that the "organization was everything: anti-Communist, anti-unified education, against military service for women, against the sale of Russian books." Some of the suspects were at one time members of former terrorist organizations. The organization was divided into autonomous cells, centrally directed. Several small caches of arms had been found.

A number of the terrorist suspects were brought to trial before a military court in Sarafand in the summer and fall of 1953. The main defendant, Y. Bahar, was sentenced to twelve years' imprisonment (he escaped at the time of the trial). Y. Heruti was sentenced to ten years; others accused of organizing an armed underground movement and anti-state activities were given sentences of from six months to seven years in prison. Most of the sentences were later reduced by the minister for defense. Previously, Dov Shilanski had been sentenced to two years for attempting to carry a bomb into the foreign ministry building. In October 1953 D. Blau and M. Freund were sentenced to three years' imprisonment in connection with an attempt made to bomb the ministry for education in Jerusalem. The Haifa correspondent of the *Herut* daily, B. Hartmann, was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment the same month after having been found guilty of smuggling a bomb into Haifa harbor at the time of the unloading of a shipment of German goods under the reparation scheme. Previously, on October 5, 1952, a bomb attempt ("in protest against the reparations pact") on the Foreign Ministry had been foiled by the police.

CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS

The Knesset, press, and public opinion were increasingly occupied with the whole complex of relations between the state and Orthodox Jewry, especially the most extreme groups—Neturei Karta and the extremist wing of Agudat Israel in Jerusalem. The issue came up on many occasions, such as the debates on unified state education and the keeping of the Sabbath on the municipal level. There were occasional clashes between the police and Orthodox demonstrators, who attempted to bring traffic in Jerusalem to a standstill on the Sabbath by force. There were also a number of attacks on nonkosher butchers and missionary offices.

The main campaign, however, centered on the National Service Bill. Originally the government had insisted on obligatory military service for all girls, but following Orthodox protests, it had decided to release girls from Orthodox homes from the service (as had been the practice in the past). Instead the government proposed a bill establishing a two-year national labor service in new immigrants' camps, religious *kibbutzim*, or hospitals, for these girls. Girls from ultra-Orthodox homes, who ordinarily would not

leave their parental homes prior to marriage, were to be exempted altogether. The struggle over this proposal continued for many months. Mizrachi and Hapoel Hamizrachi, which had originally assisted in drafting this bill, later dissociated themselves from the bill without actively opposing it. In this fight Agudat Israel was joined in the Knesset only by the Communists, who were against military service in general. Other matters in dispute included the marriage and divorce bill, giving the rabbinate a decisive say in all cases and banning non-Rabbinical marriages and divorces.

CONFLICT WITHIN THE LABOR MOVEMENT

Within the Histadrut labor movement the competition between Mapam and Mapai continued. A considerable number of *kibbutzim* belonging to Kibbutz Meuhad split. Those with a Mapam majority stayed in the Mapam-dominated Kibbutz Meuhad, while the others joined Ihud Hakibbutzim, in which Mapai members predominated. The minorities in such cases were transferred according to previous agreements. The only major exception was Ein Harod, where Mapai had a small majority; but Mapam refused to leave or to divide the settlement geographically according to Histadrut recommendations. Ein Harod was the scene of much friction during the whole year. Yad Hanna, one of the younger *kibbutzim* of Mapam with a pro-Communist majority, was excluded from Kibbutz Meuhad and the struggle for the settlement, accompanied by outside intervention, continued there too.

ARABS

One of the most important events affecting the life of the Arab minority in Israel was the Histadrut's unanimous decision to admit Arab workers into its Trade Unions department on December 30, 1952. The Arab workers would also benefit from the sick fund services as well as from the membership in general Histadrut funds for unemployment insurance and old age insurance. There was some delay in carrying out these resolutions, but they were more or less realized by June 1953. As a result the (Communist) Arab Workers Congress decided to dissolve and to join the Histadrut.

There was much Arab opposition to the land acquisition act adopted by the Knesset by a large majority in March 1953. According to Arab complaints, echoed by individual Jews, compensation paid by the Israel government and private institutions for Arab land seized by defense or development authorities was insufficient. There were also many complaints with regard to the delay in abolishing military government in the Arab-populated area, mainly in Nazareth. The government argued that many Arabs were not willing to pay taxes, though benefiting from state and municipal services, and notwithstanding the fact that the rate of the taxes in their area was lower than in the Jewish-populated areas. Another source of friction, the different price level for Jewish and Arab agricultural products, had been liquidated early in 1952. This brought prosperity to a fairly large section of the Arab population in view of their lower cost of production, due to greater agricultural experience.

JEWISH AGENCY

The Zionist General Council convened in Jerusalem during the second half of December 1952 for an eight-day session. Berl Locker, chairman of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, termed the government grant of status to the Zionist movement the most vital ruling for Jewry next to the law of return. He described the Prague trial as a "barbaric attack on our national liberation movement." A I£73,750,000 budget was passed and the permanent budget committee, in consultation with the Agency executive, was authorized to decide on the allocation of a I£3,000,000 reserve. A proposal by the commission on the Agency's activities in Israel urging the executive to increase the immigration flow was adopted. This was interpreted as giving the green light to the plan to relax the selectivity program. A series of proposals to increase the number of agricultural settlements, to welcome steps to liquidate the *maabarot* immigrants' villages, and to expand youth aliyah work, were also passed. The Council recommended the establishment of Zionist Advisory Regional Councils in "areas where they may prove helpful."

A plenary session of the Jewish Agency executive took place in Jerusalem on March 9, 1953. It dealt with immigration problems (in North Africa and Iran in particular), the financial position of the Agency, and the proposed World Jewish conference (in protest against the persecution of Jews behind the Iron Curtain) which was to take place in Switzerland (*see* p. 149), but was cancelled.

Among the proposals put forward to the plenary session of the Agency executive on July 1 was the request to interpret selective immigration more liberally and confine it mainly to a health test.

Economy

The year under review (July 1, 1952, through June 30, 1953) was marked by a movement toward a more "liberal" economic policy. The trend towards decontrol continued, inflationary pressure was largely overcome, and the amount of money in circulation dropped. Crops were good on the whole, except in the northern Negev. Following economic reforms, buying power was severely restricted, the sellers' market became a buyers' market as far as most commodities were concerned, and there was more unemployment than in previous years. This necessitated the introduction of emergency measures. The lack of foreign currency continued and there was a gap of about \$200,000,000 in the trade balance. It was planned to reduce this to \$89,000,000 by 1957 and to eliminate it entirely in the three subsequent years by the judicious use of the German goods received under the reparation agreements. A silver lining began to appear on the still clouded horizon of Israel's foreign trade even before German goods arrived: Figures published for June 1953 showed a decline of 45 per cent in the adverse trade balance in comparison with June 1952. The total trade deficit was lower by almost

I£9,000,000 during January-April 1953, as compared with the same period of 1952.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

The government policy was to balance all services, including a considerable part of the budget for defense services, within the framework of the ordinary state budget. Prices rose after the new economic policy was introduced in February 1952. From February to June 1952 the cost of living rose an average of nine points a month, from October to December three points monthly. The total of bank deposits and currency in circulation rose by only 5 per cent during 1952, from I£242,500,000 to only I£254,500,000. The rise in unemployment during the winter and spring of 1952-53 was mainly due to reduced demand for inessential goods and services, and to the shortage of foreign currency which prevented the satisfaction of the economy's raw materials needs. (Unemployment officially reached 19,000 by the end of March, but was believed to be higher. It was reported that many of the unemployed refused to accept agricultural work.)

Generally speaking, the Israel government policy was no longer to resort to short-term credits and to divert dollars to liquidate short-term debts and reduce the over-all external debt. While foreign loans had facilitated economic development in the past, the government felt that the economy must henceforth develop by the use of foreign exchange earned by the exports of goods and services, and from investments and public funds at the disposal of the Israel government. (For United States loans to Israel, *see* p. 113.)

The conviction was growing that the development of agriculture, large-scale irrigation, and other dividend-paying projects were to be given preference in the framework of planning. Of the I£135,000,000 development budget for 1953-54, 35 per cent was allocated for agriculture. Another I£23,000,000 was contributed by the Jewish Agency for that purpose. A six-year plan was drawn up designed to make the country largely self-sufficient in agricultural commodities (other than wheat and flour) hitherto bought abroad, such as sugar, pulses, fish, and meat, and to produce export surpluses of citrus fruits, bananas, other fruits, and vegetables. Other projects included the establishment during 1953 of three new water reservoirs and the development of mineral resources in the Negev. The Dead Sea works were expected to produce about 50,000 tons of phosphates during 1952-53, and it was planned to raise this to 140,000 tons during the next year. Seven groups of oil companies were granted prospecting licenses, covering 42.5 per cent of the country's area. The New Continental Oil Company of Canada was assigned the largest territory. Six drilling machines were expected to be in operation by the end of 1953.

INDUSTRY AND LABOR EFFICIENCY

Electricity shortages which seriously impeded industry, especially in Jerusalem, during 1952-53 were expected to end with the installation of a new 50,000-kilowatt turbine. The number of employees in industry rose from 60,000 in 1947, to 107,000 in 1950, and 120,000 in 1953. There was, however, little increase in labor productivity, though this was one of the deci-

sive preconditions for economic adjustment. The Histadrut executive decided that any increase in pay must be linked to efficiency. By January 1953, joint efficiency boards had been established in plants employing 62,000 workers. Foreign specialists advised government and industry on raising labor efficiency, but it would be premature to say that a decisive improvement had taken place.

In May 1953 the establishment of an Economic Advisory Staff (EAS), headed by Oscar Gass, was announced. The EAS was to advise the government on both long-term and short-term problems and was to prepare an integrated over-all economic plan to help the government make the most effective use of Israel's resources.

FISCAL POLICY

In March 1953 the government announced the introduction of two new unofficial exchange rates of I£2 per dollar (for investors) and 1.800 per dollar to be paid to exporters for their "added value." A similar rate was to be paid for the "added value" of invisible exports (e.g., the tourist trade). These rates were gradually put into effect during May-June 1953.

A property tax expected to bring in about I£25,000,000 had its first reading in the Knesset early in December 1952 and became law in 1953. The collection of a forced loan for unemployment relief works (to total about I£15,000,000) was approved by the cabinet in May 1953 and passed by the Knesset.

AGRICULTURE

The land under irrigation in Israel had doubled in six years, having increased from 210,000 to 500,000 dunams. Known water resources were sufficient to irrigate 2,000,000 to 2,500,000 dunams. Forty-six new agricultural villages were planned for 1953. Citrus exports totaled 5,324,000 cases during the season 1952-53. The picture in agriculture was satisfactory on the whole, but many experts demanded a drastic change, if not revolution, in this field, pointing out that production was far below Israel's needs. Although 85 per cent of the food consumed consisted of vegetable products and only 15 per cent of animal products, 70 per cent of Israel agricultural produce was used as animal fodder as against 30 per cent for direct human consumption. The products used as fodder eventually yielded only 10 to 30 per cent of their original nutritional value in the form of milk, eggs, and meat, though in order to produce them, areas that could yield several times more vegetable foods for direct human consumption were used.

Foreign Affairs

The *coup d'état* of General Naguib Al-Hilali, the deposition of King Farouk, and the establishment of a new regime in Egypt raised new hopes for peace in Israel (voiced, for instance, by Premier Ben Gurion in the Knesset on August 18, 1952). But there was no palpable improvement in

relations between Israel and Egypt, and there was a considerable deterioration in relations between Israel and Jordan following frequent attacks on Israel settlements by groups from over the border in the spring and early summer of 1953 (*see below*).

On October 9, 1952, the Israel government announced that it had agreed to release £1,000,000 of funds belonging to former Arab residents of Palestine. The Palestine Conciliation Commission hailed this as an important step towards the settlement of the differences between Israel and her neighbors. This proved to be somewhat overoptimistic, in view of Arab unwillingness to cooperate.

UNITED NATIONS

At the United Nations (UN), meanwhile, the diplomatic struggle continued during the second half of October 1952. The Iraqi Foreign Minister compared the plight of the Arab refugees with the slaughter of six million Jews in Europe. The Israel delegate replied by accusing Iraq of "raising the voice of Nazism" in the UN. Addressing the plenary session of the General Assembly on November 13, 1952, Abba Eban called on the Arab states to enter into direct negotiation with Israel. He characterized the Arab attempt to prevent the conclusion of the Israel-German reparations agreement as "blackmail." A four-point peace proposal sponsored by six nations and aimed at settling differences between Israel and her neighbors was presented to the special Political Committee of the General Assembly on November 26, 1952, when discussion of a report of the Palestine Conciliation Commission was resumed. Following this proposal Israel on December 1, 1952, urged the Arab states to join her in immediate peace negotiations and proposed a six-point agenda for a peace conference. In the end a compromise in the form of an eight-power resolution calling for direct negotiations between Israel and Arab states was carried in the Special Political Committee on December 11, 1952, by 32 votes to 13 with 13 abstentions. Immediately after the vote Ahmed Shukeiri, assistant secretary of the Arab League, declared that Syria would not start negotiations with Israel without strings attached. On December 18, 1952, a Philippine amendment was introduced requiring that the talks be held "on the basis of previous UN resolutions and in particular the principle of the internationalization of Jerusalem." On the same day, however, the whole project of direct Israel-Arab peace talks as worked out by the Political Committee failed to get the required two-thirds majority, with the Arab states and the Soviet bloc voting against it and most of the South American republics abstaining. Arab attacks against Israel were renewed in the UN in the debate on the situation of Jews behind the Iron Curtain at the Political Committee on April 15 and 16, 1953.

ARMS TO ARABS

The serious disquiet of the Israel government at reports concerning deliveries of arms by leading Western powers to certain Arab states, primarily Egypt, was voiced by Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett at a press conference in Tel Aviv on December 28, 1952. This was followed by diplomatic representations to Washington and London early in January 1953, and again dur-

ing the second half of the month. In a note dated April 16, 1953, Israel asked to be represented in negotiations between the United Kingdom and the Egyptian government with respect to the Suez Canal and the adjoining area.

ISRAEL-JORDAN BORDER

The tension on the Israel-Jordan border increased during the month of January 1953 with a number of attacks and the cancellation by Israel of the agreement (signed on December 30, 1952) for regular meetings of local commanders to restore stolen goods, combat infiltration, etc., on the ground that Jordan was not implementing these agreements. On February 2, Jordan saboteurs attacked an Israel train near Qalqilia; a number of other incidents occurred in the neighborhood which provoked diplomatic activity and exchange of notes among Tel Aviv, New York, London, and Amman. The largest single incident occurred on April 22 when fire was exchanged in Jerusalem across the demarcation line from the north to the south of the city for more than two hours. This followed a steadily rising wave of murder and theft in Jerusalem and elsewhere in Israel. After a month of relative quiet, attacks were renewed during the second half of May. On June 3 the Israel government consented to the renewal of local commanders' meetings along armistice lines.

Major General Vagon Bennike of the Danish army replaced Lieutenant General William Riley of the United States Marines as UN Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization on June 27, 1953.

RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE

During the second half of 1952 relations between Israel and the Soviet Union and its satellites continued to deteriorate as a result of the increasingly pronounced anti-Jewish line of the latter. Nevertheless, the news of the Prague trial in November 1952 (*see* p. 288) came as a surprise and a shock to most people in Israel. The Jewish Agency published a statement of protest on November 23. On the following day Moshe Sharett, the Foreign Minister, and most of the speakers in the Knesset sharply condemned the Prague attack on Jewry. But the Communists voiced unqualified support for the initiators of the Prague trial. Mapam's stand was ambiguous: While reaffirming its allegiance to "revolutionary Zionism," it vowed its support to the cause of the Peoples' Democracies. On December 5 the government delivered a strong verbal protest to the Czech *chargé d'affaires* concerning libels against Israel government and personnel published in the information bulletin of the local Czech legation. One day later Czechoslovakia demanded the immediate recall of Aryieh Kubovy, Israel Minister to Prague, on charges that he had interfered in Czechoslovak internal affairs and had had espionage contacts with Slansky and other Jewish Communists. On December 12 Kubovy (who was also Israel Minister to Poland) was declared *persona non grata* by Warsaw. The Israel government rejected both notes, and Kubovy, who had returned to Israel some time before, remained in Tel Aviv. An Israel answer to the Prague note was published on December 18.

On December 25 the Mapam council adopted a compromise resolution on the Prague trials by 232 votes to 49. The Moshe Sneh-Jakov Riftin bloc, that advocated complete acceptance of the Prague accusations, was the minority. The resolution said that "Mapam is certain that its emissary Mordecai Oren is innocent and cannot conceive that he could act subversively against Czechoslovakia."

The anti-Jewish drive behind the Iron Curtain reached its peak with the accusation against the Jewish doctors in Moscow on January 13, 1953 (see p. 273). These charges had wide repercussions in official circles, among the public, and in the Israel press. The Israel Medical Association demanded an international investigation and statements of protest were published by the Jewish Agency executive as well as many parties and other public bodies. Since *Kol Haam*, the mouthpiece of the Israel Communist Party, continued to support the Moscow charges, its distribution in army camps was discontinued; the Histadrut executive instructed its secretariat to formulate proposals to bar Communist representatives from all levels of trade union activities. In a Knesset debate on the Moscow charges on January 19, the government threatened action against groups in Israel supporting the anti-Jewish campaign behind the Iron Curtain. The government declaration on this occasion was adopted by a vote of 89 to 6, with the Communists and the Sneh wing of Mapam voting against.

The Sneh bloc established itself as an independent faction within the Mapam Party on January 17, 1953. It demanded that the party leave the Zionist organization and form a united front with the Communist Party. The Mapam Party council expelled Sneh and his followers on January 28, after the leaders of this group had refused to hand back their Knesset mandates and dissolve their faction. It was assumed originally that a considerable part of the Mapam leadership and rank and file would join the Sneh group, but after several days it appeared that only one Knesset member, Abraham Berman, had stayed with Sneh; another, Rustum Boustuni, an Arab, returned to Mapam after a few weeks. The "Left Brigade" (as it came to be called) was estimated at several members. Politically, organizationally, and financially it was considered to be part of the Communist Party in Israel, but for tactical reasons it had apparently been decided that the "Left Brigade" should not officially join the Communist Party for the time being.

SOVIET BREAK-OFF OF RELATIONS

A bomb placed by unknown persons exploded outside the Soviet legation in Tel Aviv on February 9, 1953, causing injuries to three members of the legation staff. This act was condemned in no uncertain terms by the government of Israel, the Knesset, and the press, but the Soviet government used it as a pretext to break off diplomatic relations with Israel, charging that the bombing "was connived at" by the Israel police. It also accused the Israel press and government officials of "openly instigating hostile activities" against the Soviet Union. On February 16 the Knesset approved the government statement on the Soviet Union. The Netherlands agreed to

represent Israel interests in Moscow. Bulgaria was chosen to represent Soviet interests in Israel.

In April 1953, after the death of Stalin and the "liquidation" of the anti-Jewish policy, a Polish diplomat in Sofia approached the First Secretary of the Israel legation there and indicated that the Soviet Union would be ready to renew diplomatic relations with Israel. Secret negotiations continued in Sofia during May and June, and on July 20 an agreement on the restoration of diplomatic ties was officially announced in Moscow and Jerusalem.

RELATIONS WITH THE WEST

Relations between Israel and the West were affected during the year under review by the change in American policy in the Middle East under the Republican administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Meeting with Undersecretary of State Walter Bedell Smith on February 11, 1953, Ambassador Abba Eban formally renewed Israel's request for American military aid. A few days later, on February 18, 1953, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles told a press conference in Washington that the administration was considering the formation of a Middle East defense organization—as first proposed by the United States and its allies more than a year before—and that Israel would be welcome as a member. At a public meeting in New York on March 3 Ambassador Eban declared that the "Government of Israel has been gratified by the assurances it has received in recent weeks from leading figures in the United States government that the friendship between the United States and Israel would be maintained and strengthened." At the same time the State Department in March 1953 announced that its policy was to "equalize support for Israel and the other countries in this area." According to an Embassy source quoted in *The Jerusalem Post*, this did not mean "that the support for Israel would be lessened but that an increase in the help given the Arab states would result."

Secretary of State Dulles visited Israel on May 13 and 14. He was received by the President, the prime minister, and the foreign minister, and had talks with other high officials. In his farewell message he said: "We came here primarily to listen and to observe. We have brought with us no ready-made solutions to the serious problems of this area."

At the conclusion of his trip, Dulles declared that it was too early to form a Middle East Defense Organization such as had been envisaged by the previous administration. Instead, he indicated that the United States should help build up the Arab League and other indigenous collective arrangements in the area. While making it clear "that the present United States administration stands fully behind the 1950 declaration [guaranteeing the present frontiers in the Middle East]," Dulles added that "concessions on both sides would be needed to make Israel a part of the Near East community."

REPARATIONS

The reparations agreement between Israel and the German Federal government was signed in Luxemburg on September 10, 1952, by Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and came into force on

March 27, 1953. (For provisions, see *AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK*, 1953 [Vol. 54], p. 471-85.) On October 12 a seven-man board of directors was appointed by the Israel government. There was some delay between the signing of the pact and its ratification, and Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Conference on Jewish Claims Against Germany, visited Western Germany in October and again in November 1952 in this connection. On January 22 Sharett voiced disappointment about the delay, but two months later, a few days after the ratification by the Bundestag, Felix Shinar, the leader of the Israel delegation in Germany, announced that \$5,000,000 had already been paid by Germany under the agreement to cover Israel fuel purchases in Britain.

Of the first two annual installments of DM 400,000,000 (\$90,000,000) on which Israel could draw up to March 31, 1954, DM 150,000,000 were to be paid by Germany to Great Britain for direct British crude oil deliveries to Israel. The remainder was to be used for purchases in Germany of iron and steel, chemicals, raw materials, and seed. Annual deliveries under the agreement were to be about one-fifth of Israel's yearly imports.

The goods to be delivered under the agreement were to be selected by the Israel Purchasing Commission. This commission, set up in Cologne in April 1953, started work in June and had also taken over the functions of the Israel Consul in Munich, Eliahu Livneh, who had left Germany in June.

The German reparations issue, which had provoked many discussions and polemics during 1951-52, faded away with the signing of the reparations pact. The General Zionists and Mapam discontinued their public protest, while Herut and the Communists persisted in their opposition but raised the issue only infrequently.

Population

The population of the State of Israel at the end of April 1953 was 1,647,000. Of these, 182,000 were non-Jews (about 11 per cent). The table below shows the growth of the population of Israel since May 1948.

TABLE 1
GROWTH OF POPULATION OF ISRAEL, 1948-APRIL 1953

Year	Jews	Non-Jews	Total
1948	758,000		
1949	1,013,000	160,000	1,173,000
1950	1,203,000	167,000	1,370,000
1951	1,404,000	173,000	1,577,000
1952	1,450,000	179,000	1,629,000
1953 (April)	1,465,000	182,000	1,647,000

The total yearly population increase fell from 17 per cent in 1950 to 15 per cent in 1951 and 3.3 per cent in 1952, primarily as the result of the decrease in the number of immigrants. Since the first months of 1952 the natural increase had been higher than the net migration. During the first half of 1953 the number of emigrants exceeded the number of immigrants.

AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK
TABLE 2

GROWTH OF JEWISH POPULATION IN ISRAEL

	JANUARY 1949-APRIL 1953				
Year	1949	1950	1951	1952	1952 Jan.-April 1953
Net Migration	235,000	160,000	167,000	10,000	-3,000
Natural Increase	20,000	29,000	35,000	45,000	15,000
Total Increase	255,000	189,000	202,000	55,000	12,000

VITAL STATISTICS

The net birth rate (the number of births per 1,000 residents) reached 35.5 during the first part of 1953, in comparison with 32.7 in 1952 and 33.8 in 1951. The Jewish birth rate was 33.2 in comparison with 31.5 in 1952 and 32.6 in 1951. Both the general and the Jewish birth rate were the highest for a very long period.

The Jewish death rate was 6.8 per thousand during the first four months of 1953. It had remained stationary for some time: 6.8 in 1952, 6.4 in 1951, 6.8 in 1949, and 6.4 in 1950.

Infant mortality rate (Jewish) continued to decline: It was 38.7 in 1952, in comparison with 39.2 in 1951, 46.2 in 1950, and 51.7 in 1949.

The marriage rate (Jewish) was 12.2 per thousand for the first four months of 1953. It had been 11.1 in 1952, 11.7 in 1951, and 14.5 in 1950. The non-Jewish marriage rate was considerably lower: 8.2 and 8.8 per thousand for 1953 and 1952 respectively. Both birth and infant mortality rates were higher for the non-Jewish population. In 1952 the birth rate was 50, and infant mortality 67.

At the end of 1952 there were 738,000 males and 712,000 females (i.e., 50.9 per cent male and 49.1 female). In 1948 the percentage of males had been 51.7.

Children up to the age of nine years had increased from 20 per cent of the population in 1948 to 24 per cent at the end of 1952. There was a drop in the percentage of those aged ten through thirty-nine as compared with previous years; while 53 per cent of the population were of these ages in 1948, the percentage fell to 46 in 1952. The most marked change, however, was in the over-sixty age group. In 1948 6 per cent of the population had been over 60; in 1951 it had been 7 per cent. But in 1952 the proportion rose to 21 per cent, due to the large immigration of elderly persons from Eastern Europe and North Africa.

The rate of natural increase of the Jewish population fell from 26.3 per thousand in 1951 to 24.7 in 1952.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

In 1948 only 16 per cent of the Israel Jewish population lived in rural areas, while 84 per cent lived in the cities. By 1952, the percentages had shifted to 23 and 77, respectively. But in the course of these five years the percentage in the *kibbutzim* (cooperative settlements) dropped from 7.9 to 4.8 per cent. The figure of residents in *moshavim* (smallholders' settlements) however went up from 4.4 to 7.3 per cent, so that the proportion between

kibbutzim and *moshavim* had been completely reversed in favor of the latter. Whereas in 1948 the *kibbutzim* had accounted for half the rural Jewish population, in 1952 they formed just over one-fifth of it.

Of the Jewish population, 716,000 or 50 per cent of the total lived in the Judean plain; 16 per cent in Carmel; 13 per cent in Sharon; and about 10 per cent in Jerusalem and the Jerusalem hills. The non-Jewish population was mainly concentrated in Upper and Lower Galilee, which accounted for 102,000 or 57 per cent of the total. In Western Galilee 90,000 persons out of a total population of 106,000, or 85 per cent, were non-Jews.

While the average density in the country was 81 persons per square kilometer, in the Yarkon district the density reached 3,048; in the Haifa district, 869; in the Jerusalem district, 562; in the Negev there were only 3 persons per square kilometer.

The urban population numbered 1,161,460 in 47 places and the rural population 461,900 in 771 places. The rural figure includes 19,900 nomadic Bedouins.

TABLE 3

INDUSTRIAL BREAKDOWN OF ISRAEL POPULATION, JULY 1952^a

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Non-Jews</u>	<u>Jews</u>	<u>Total</u>
Agriculture	30,000	75,000	105,000
Industry and Crafts	7,000	120,000	127,000
Building and Public Works	8,000	50,000	58,000
Transport and Communication	2,000	38,000	40,000
Trade and Finance	5,000	90,000	95,000
Liberal Professions	1,000	45,000	46,000
Public Services	2,000	62,000	64,000
Other Services	5,000	55,000	60,000
Total Gainfully Employed	60,000	535,000	595,000

^a The figures refer to mid-1952, as given in C. Tradmor's *Israel Economic Survey* published in June 1953 by the Jewish Agency, Jerusalem.

IMMIGRATION AND ABSORPTION

Jewish immigration to Israel from July 1, 1952, to June 30, 1953, totaled 14,822, as compared to 59,628 during the previous year. This was not only the lowest figure since the establishment of the State in 1948, but even less than the totals for 1946 and 1947.

April 1953, when only 493 new immigrants entered the country, was the low point since World War II. While 22,500 immigrants arrived during 1952, 12,500 left for other countries during the year. The number of immigrants since May 15, 1948, reached 712,000.

The reasons for the great decline of immigration given in the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, 1953 [Vol. 54], p. 427, still held true, except perhaps that these trends had become even more palpable. General economic difficulties had necessitated the adoption in 1952 of a new policy of planned and selective immigration except where immigration was a matter of rescue. Israel could no longer continue to accept the unlimited immigration of aged and chronically ill persons who, completely unable to support themselves, became

a burden upon the state. That this attitude was not likely to change the official "open door" policy was illustrated by the "Let my people go" appeal of 1953 which followed the developments in the Soviet bloc countries at that time.

There was a strong movement early in 1953 for a more liberal application of the principle of selective immigration, mainly in cases where the immigration of a whole family was impeded by the rejection of a single member who required medical or social care.

Other steps taken to encourage immigration included the establishment of two government-Jewish Agency bodies on June 14, 1953. The Council for Western Immigration was to be composed of three members of the government and three members of the Jewish Agency executive, while the Committee for Western Immigration was to consist of four representatives of each body. Ishaq Raphael, head of the Agency's immigration department, told a press conference in Jerusalem in February 1953 that immigration from Western Europe and the Americas might increase if certain financial and investment arrangements were made.

IMMIGRATION BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

A statistical breakdown of Jewish immigration to Israel from the establishment of the State through December 31, 1952, revealed that after 1951 the general picture had changed considerably. Immigration from Iraq, Poland, and Rumania had practically ceased. (About half of the immigrants between 1948-52 had originated from these three countries.) Of the 5,275 new immigrants who reached Israel during the first six months of 1953, 413 came from Eastern and 348 from Western Europe; 1,402 came from Asia, including 723 from Persia. The number of immigrants from Africa was 2,740, of whom 1,925 came from Morocco. There were 352 immigrants from the Americas, including 218 from Argentina.

ABSORPTION OF IMMIGRANTS

In 1950 the policy of maintaining new immigrant camps had been changed and a network of *maabarot* (transitional villages) extending from the northern border of the country to Tel Yeruham in the central Negev had been introduced. These were special villages established wherever work was available, either near existing towns and villages or in development areas where large-scale public works were carried out. As a result of this policy, the population of the camps fell rapidly and by the month of April 1953 only 6,500 persons were left in them. By the end of 1952 there were 111 *maabarot* with a total population of 213,000. The exodus from the *maabarot* continued, however, during the winter of 1952-53, and by April 1953 their population was down to 154,000. During 1952 ten *maabarot* were closed, following the migration of residents to existing rural or agricultural settlements, and it was intended to close twenty more during 1953. The plans for permanent immigrant housing were approaching completion by April 1953, when there were only about 5,000 immigrants left in tents; 20,000 had been transferred from tents to huts during the first three months of 1953.

The shift from urban to farming life was notable. In 1950 less than 2 per cent of the new arrivals had given agriculture as their former occupation; three years later nearly a fifth of the newcomers were working on the land. According to a master plan, newcomers were to be directed away from the most thickly populated areas, especially Tel Aviv and the surrounding area. This plan had met with varying success. Beersheba, which had been entirely abandoned by its Arab population, now had 18,000 residents, while Migdal Ascalon had absorbed 13,000. The population of Afula had increased by 7,000, Tiberias by 12,000, Safad by 5,000. Some twenty new towns were in the process of development, from Kiryat Shmone in the north to Elath on the shores of the Red Sea in the south.

Education

The number of public kindergartens rose from 1,534 in 1951-52 to 1,669 in 1952-53 and the number of primary schools from 849 to 945, while the number of secondary schools remained stationary (68). The number of teachers rose from 10,945 in 1951-52 to 16,105 in 1952-53—an increase of 47.1 per cent. While tuition was free in the primary and working youth schools, in accordance with the law, the great majority of secondary schools were maintained by the payment of tuition fees. With the rise of teacher salaries in secondary schools and a general increase in the cost of living, tuition fees were also rising, and many parents had difficulty in keeping their children in secondary schools. During the year under review a School of Education jointly run by the Hebrew University and the Ministry of Education was inaugurated in Jerusalem.

A law for the abolition of all party control of educational institutions and the establishment of state schools was passed by the Knesset over the opposition of the Communists, Mapam, and several Orthodox groups (Agudat Israel, Poale Agudat Israel, in August 1953). In the future 75 per cent of the curriculum of state schools would be common to all and be determined by the ministry of education. The ministry could also prepare suggestions for the remaining 25 per cent of the curriculum, from which the educational institutions might adopt their own complete curriculum. These curricula would include special programs for town and rural schools and for the children of observant and non-observant parents.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The three institutions of higher learning were the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovoth, which dealt primarily with research, and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the Israel Institute of Technology (Technion) in Haifa, which granted academic degrees. In the Weizmann Institute there were 178 staff members, including 70 research workers. In the Hebrew University there were 3,000 students in 1952-53, 200 of whom were research workers. Its academic staff included 45 staff professors, 6 visiting professors, 31 associate professors, 61 lecturers, 50 instructors, 153 assistants, and 80

other teachers. In 1952-53 two new faculties were established, one of medicine and one of law, both of which gave full courses and bestowed degrees. The Technion had enrolled 1,200 students in 1952-53, and the academic staff consisted of 188 members. Of 652 applicants for the academic year 1952-53, only 337 students were accepted owing to shortage of facilities. During 1953-54 the Weizmann Institute was to launch a large building project which would enable it to double its enrollment.

Table 4 below indicates the extent of the educational system in Israel and its growth as compared with the previous school years.

TABLE 4
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IN ISRAEL 1951-52 AND 1952-53

Type of school	1952-53	1951-52	% increase
Public Kindergarten	62,331	63,556	-0.2
Primary School ^a	203,603	183,259	11.1
Secondary School	13,875	12,936	7.3
Arab School	28,176	26,205	7.5
Classes for Adults	18,755	17,643	6.3
Trade and Vocational	4,243	4,183	1.4
School for Working Youth ^b	13,300	10,780	23.3
	344,283	318,562	

^a For children aged 6 through 13, attendance compulsory.

^b For children aged 14 through 17, attendance compulsory for those who had not completed their primary schooling.

Cultural Events

The first Israel prizes were awarded on Independence Day, April 20, 1953. These prizes of £1,000 each were to be awarded henceforth to distinguished writers, artists, and scientists who were residents of Israel. The first prize in literature went to Ya'aqov Cahan, the dean of Hebrew poets, whose seventieth birthday was recently celebrated. Another literature prize went to Chaim Hazaz for his four-volume work *Ya'ish*. The prize for Jewish studies was posthumously awarded to Gedalya Alon for his work *The History of the Jews in Eretz Israel in the Period of the Mishna and Talmud*. Aryeh Dvoretzky received the prize for social sciences for a study of the Jewish community of Wilno in the ghetto under Nazi rule. Jacob Levitzky and Shimshon Amitzur received the exact sciences prize for their work on abstract algebra. Mrs. Dina Feitelson-Shore, the only woman prize winner, was granted the award for a study of the reasons for failure in the first grade of school. The art award was made posthumously to Zeev Ben Zvi for his monumental sculpture group of the Jewish child lost in the European holocaust. None of the works submitted in the fields of humanities, natural sciences, technology, and agriculture was thought by the jury to be of sufficient merit to warrant an award in 1953.

During the spring and summer of 1953 preparations continued for two big international conferences to be held in Jerusalem: The Seventh Annual

International Congress for the History of Science in July, and the Conquest of the Desert Congress with the participation of the United Nations and of some sixty countries.

In June 1953 a law was introduced establishing in Jerusalem a learned body called the Israel Language Committee, to continue the work of the present Vaad Halashon (Hebrew Language Committee).

ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological exploration and surveys included soundings at Khirbet el Beitar (southeast of Beersheba), a place that contained remains from the fourth millenium B.C.E.; excavations at Khirbet er Ruqadie, where a rectangular construction dating from the fifth century was found; findings from the early and middle Canaanite period at Beth Yerah; an ancient cemetery near the Kishon river; and a city gate and Byzantine church at Susitha (Hippos). Nelson Glueck, in an address in Jerusalem in October 1952, revealed the discovery deep in the Negev of many wadis whose sides had been terraced from bottom to top, as well as of numerous cisterns to catch the run-off of rain water.

SCHOLARSHIP AND LITERATURE

The first text of the Hebrew Bible to be printed entirely in Israel was published in May 1953 by the Magnes Press of the Hebrew University. The revision of the text on the basis of ancient manuscripts was carried out by the late Professor Umberto Moshe Cassuto in collaboration with Eliahu Shmuel Hartom.

Important new books published during the year under review included Zalman Shneur's poems, S. Y. Agnon's *Ad Hena*, and Simon Halkin's translation of Walt Whitman's poems. The fourth volume of the Hebrew Encyclopedia, the fourth volume of the Talmudic Encyclopedia, and other reference works were also published. In a different field the *Book of the Palmach* (two volumes) gave the most compact survey of the history of this important military unit and the war of liberation in general.

RADIO AND THEATRE

A new 50-kilowatt transmitting station of Kol Israel, the state radio, was opened. The budget of Kol Israel for 1952-53 was £500,000 and the budget of Kol Zion Lagola, the broadcasting station of the Jewish Agency, was £220,000.

In the theater the main highlights were the Habima productions of Maurice Maeterlinck's *Blue Bird*, and *I, the Ship's Captain* by Yosh, an original Israeli play. Ohel again staged John Gay's *Beggars' Opera* and a new J. B. Priestley play, while the Chamber Theater had much success with Bernard Shaw's *Saint Joan* and Clifford Odet's *Awake and Sing*. *The Juggler*, the first Hollywood picture about Israel actually filmed in this country, was shot in October 1952 at Hanita near the Lebanese frontier.

MUSIC

The Engel Prizes for 1952-53 were awarded to Paul Ben Haim for his Second Symphony, and to Hanoch Yacoby and Avraham Daus for their cantatas. The annual Ein Gev Music Festival was held as usual during Passover week, the four events being attended by about ten thousand people. Among the performers were Jascha Heifetz and the dancer Harold Kreutzberg; there was also a notable performance by Kibbutz Hazorea of Benjamin Britten's *Let Us Make An Opera*.

A ceremony commemorating Hakhel, the ancient ritual performed in the period of the Hebrew kingdom during the intermediate days of the Feast of Tabernacles after every Sabbatical year, was held in Jerusalem in the beginning of October 1952.

Personalia

Eliezer Kaplan, one of the leaders of Mapai and the Histadrut, treasurer of the Jewish Agency for many years, and minister of finance of the Israel Government since its establishment, died on July 13, 1952.

David Zvi Pinkas, a leader of Mizrachi and the Mizrachi World Union, member of the Vaad Leumi, deputy of the Knesset, and minister of communications, died on August 14, 1952.

Yitzhak Sadeh, first commander and founder of the Palmach and one of the outstanding figures of Hagana, died on August 20, 1952.

Menahem (Emil) Shmorak, General Zionist leader and member of the Jewish Agency executive, died on March 16, 1953.

Eliezer (Lipa) Sukenik, veteran professor of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and world famous archaeologist, died on February 27, 1953.

L. Z. LAQUEUR