Israel

The first half of the year under review (July 1, 1957, through June 30, 1958) saw a return to normalcy after the Sinai campaign and the completion of a wave of large-scale immigration, mainly from Poland and Hungary. Israel's borders were comparatively quiet, though there was some tension with Jordan over the Israel enclave on Mount Scopus, and with Syria over the work in connection with the Hulah drainage in the northern demilitarized zone.

Development progressed at the Red Sea port of Eilat, now open to shipping as a result of the Sinai campaign. The unwritten alliance with France was consolidated, and friendly relations developed with Ghana and other countries in Africa and Asia.

The second half of the year was dominated by the opening of Israel's tenth anniversary celebrations.

Relations with Arab Countries

Border incidents decreased substantially after the Sinai campaign. Fedayeen attacks from Egyptian and Jordanian territory and the Gaza Strip ceased almost entirely.

There was some looting and mine-laying across the demarcation lines with the Gaza Strip, and Egypt continued to bar Israel's ships from the Suez Canal. An Israel sailor was removed from a foreign ship passing through the Canal in July 1957, and another from a foreign ship at anchor in Alexandria in November 1957. Both were released only after brutal treatment in Egyptian jails. On September 24, 1957, the Israeli fishing trawler Doron was intercepted on the open seas by an Egyptian naval patrol. The crew were only freed, after maltreatment, on January 27, 1958. The vessel was not released.

There was some Syrian sniping at Israeli workers near the border, especially in June, July, and November 1957, and March 1958. Four Israelis were killed and ten wounded.

Tension with Jordan centered mainly on the Mount Scopus area, where the Hebrew University and Hadassah Hospital buildings were cut off from Israeli Jerusalem by a strip of Jordan-held territory.

On November 20, 1957, the Jordanian authorities refused to allow the passage of a barrel of gasoline for the Israel garrison on Mount Scopus; on May 7, 1958, they objected to the presence of two alleged Israeli spies in the convoy; on May 22 Jordanian forces fired at an Israel patrol in the Scopus area, killing Lt. Col. George A. Flint, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization officer in the Jerusalem area, and four Israeli policemen.
United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold held talks with the Jordanian and Israel governments from December 1 to 3, 1957, on the first of these incidents. On three occasions he sent special representatives to deal with the problem: Francisco Urrutia on December 31, 1957, Ralph Bunche on May 11, 1958, and Andrew Cordier on June 14, 1958; and on June 21, 1958, Hammarskjold himself paid a return visit to the area. On each occasion Israel demanded that Jordan fulfill its obligations under Article VIII of the Armistice Agreement, but Jordan refused to comply.

Israel's policy towards the Arab countries was redefined on several occasions, in keeping with the changing situation.

On October 7, 1957, Foreign Minister Golda Meir, speaking at the UN General Assembly, called on the Arab states to "build a future for the Middle East based on cooperation." She declared that "Israel remains ever ready to defend itself if attacked, but it has never had and does not have now any aggressive intentions or designs against the independence or territorial integrity of any of its neighbors." On October 21, reacting to reports of the supply of Soviet arms to Syria, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion expressed in the Knesset "profound concern at the increased tension in the world as a whole and in our area in particular," which he ascribed mainly to "almost a fundamental transformation" in the Middle East—that "the forces contending in our area are not so much the forces of the area itself, but the world blocs of the East and the West." On November 18, Ben-Gurion rejected proposals that Israel adopt a policy of neutrality, declaring that while Israel had not given and would not give her support to any aggressive design or alliance, she needed friends in order to obtain the arms vital to her security.

Israel remained calm after the Egyptian-Syrian and Iraqi-Jordanian mergers. Ben-Gurion told foreign correspondents on February 26, 1958, that if the Arab states were free, peace-loving democracies, "we would be glad to welcome that union and cooperate with them politically, economically, and culturally," but since the Arab unions were headed by military dictators, it was only natural that Israel regarded them "with some anxiety." On July 29, in the Knesset, he said: "We are prepared to sit down with any of our neighbors, or with all of them together, to establish peaceful relations between us ... on a basis of equality and mutuality." Any attempt to truncate Israel's territory, he declared, would be "met with the entire military force of the State of Israel."

Other Aspects of Foreign Relations

Eighteen foreign countries were represented in Israel by embassies, 24 by legations, and 1 by a diplomatic mission. Israel was represented in 53 countries. Of its 37 permanent missions, 19 were embassies, 17 legations, and 1 a diplomatic mission. In addition, Israel had consulates in 31 countries, 19 of them headed by honorary consuls.

On April 23, 1958, both Houses of the United States Congress passed resolutions of congratulation on the occasion of Israel's tenth anniversary. American assistance to Israel continued on a large scale. On March 4, 1958, the American Export-Import Bank granted Israel a $24.2 million loan, repayable over a period of 15 years, towards the cost of a four-year irrigation and agricultural
development plan. Food surpluses to the value of $24 million, to be repaid over a long period in local currency, were made available. Israel also received a $15 million loan from the Development Fund, $7.5 million in Special Aid, and $1.5 million in Technical Assistance. In addition, the United States made grants amounting to £6,350,000 to cultural institutions in Israel from the moneys accumulated through the Informational Media Guaranty, under which American books, periodicals, and phonograph records were sold in Israel for local currency.

Relations with the Latin American countries continued to be friendly. Ministers were appointed for the first time to Israel by Bolivia and Cuba in November 1957, and Panama and Colombia agreed to establish diplomatic relations with Israel in March and May 1958, respectively. In March 1958 an Israel minister to Venezuela was appointed for the first time, and in August 1958, Israel and Peru raised their legations to embassies. A number of Latin American statesmen visited Israel during the year and Israel ministers toured various Latin American countries, taking part in the tenth anniversary celebrations during their stay. A Knesset delegation, headed by Meir Argov, also visited several countries in Latin America and was cordially received.

Relations with the United Kingdom remained normal, and were noticeably improved by the visit to London for Foreign Minister Golda Meir in August 1958, during which she held important talks with British Foreign Minister Selwyn Lloyd. There were indications that Britain had abandoned the idea, put forward by Sir Anthony Eden in his Guildhall speech (see AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, 1957 [Vol. 58], p. 243), of pressing for territorial concessions by Israel as the price of a peace settlement with the Arab countries.

Canada for the first time appointed a resident minister in Israel, and good relations continued with South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

Israel’s close and friendly relations with France were strengthened during the year, and Golda Meir held cordial talks with French Premier Charles de Gaulle in August 1958.

In July 1958 President Isaac Ben-Zvi paid a state visit to Holland and Belgium, where a parliamentary delegation had met with a cordial reception in May. Visits to Italy by Foreign Minister Meir in October 1957 and August 1958 helped to advance good relations with that country, and in September 1958 Italian Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani accepted an invitation to visit Israel.

Although there were no diplomatic relations with the German Federal Republic, Israel received goods to the value of $430,000,000 from 1952, when The Hague reparations agreement was concluded, through March 1958. This constituted more than half of the payments agreed upon. Trade between the two countries improved, Germany taking 15 per cent of Israel’s citrus exports.

There was no improvement in relations with the Soviet Union. Soviet press and radio propaganda continued extremely unfavorable to Israel, and the Soviet government continued to support the Arab countries against Israel on the international scene.

Relations with Hungary deteriorated. In October 1957 the Hungarian gov-

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1 The official conversion rate was 1.8 Israeli pounds to the dollar.
ernment expelled three of the six members of the Israel legation in Budapest, presumably as a reprisal for the arrest and trial of a Hungarian actor in Israel. In January 1958 the Israel Foreign Ministry rejected as unfounded the Hungarian government's charge that Israeli diplomats had made "illegal currency payments" to Hungarian citizens and forged Hungarian passports.


Friendly relations with Poland continued and there was an improvement in the attitude of the Yugoslav press to Israel.

Considerable progress was made in forging friendly relations with various countries in Asia and Africa. The Japanese chargé d'affaires in Israel was raised to the rank of minister; Thailand and the Philippines appointed non-resident ministers, and the Burmese government agreed to raise its minister to the rank of ambassador. Israel's ambassador to Ghana was also made ambassador to Liberia in September 1957, and in July 1958 Israel named a separate ambassador to the latter country.

In February and March 1958 Foreign Minister Meir paid official goodwill visits to Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, the Ivory Coast, and Senegal, and was received with great cordiality. At the beginning of 1958 Minister of Trade and Industry Phinehas Sappir visited Southeast Asia and the Far East and signed an agreement with Japan for tankers and various other products. In January 1958 Major General Moses Dayyan, then chief of staff, and Simeon Peres, director-general of the Ministry of Defense, visited Burma as guests of the government.

An agreement to establish the Black Star line, a joint Ghana-Israel shipping company, was signed on September 10, 1957, and a commercial agreement between the two countries was signed in August 1958. Israel's technical assistance to some of the new countries in Asia and Africa was expanded, and Israel provided scholarships for students from Ethiopia, Japan, India, Ghana, Burma, Thailand, and other countries.

Israel cooperated widely with UN agencies and other international organizations and was represented during the year at 118 international conferences.

**Domestic Affairs**

President Ben-Zvi began his second five-year term of office on October 30, 1957, after having been reelected by the Knesset by 76 affirmative and no contrary votes, with 18 members abstaining. He had been jointly nominated by 10 of the Knesset's 13 parties.

**The Legislature**

On the previous day, October 29, 1957, the Knesset had been the scene of an unprecedented outrage. A hand grenade thrown from the public gallery onto the floor of the house injured Prime Minister Ben-Gurion, Foreign Minister Meir, Communications Minister Moses Carmel, Health Minister Israel
Barzilai, and Minister for Religious Affairs and Social Welfare Moses Hayyim Shapira.

On August 7, 1958, Moses Dueg, a new immigrant who confessed having thrown the grenade because of a grievance against the authorities, was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for the crime. He appealed to the Supreme Court.

The third Knesset's second session ended on July 31, 1957. Its third session opened on October 21, 1957, and closed on August 6, 1958. The Knesset passed 78 laws during its second session and 70 laws during its third session.

The Basic Law of the Knesset was the first of the basic laws which together were to make up Israel's constitution. Its 44 clauses defined the status of the Knesset, its term of office, the method of its election, the procedures for its opening and dissolution, the immunity of Knesset members, etc.

The sharpest controversy took place on Mapai (Labor party) and General Zionist proposals to change the existing system of proportional representation, with the entire country forming one constituency and Knesset seats allocated to the various parties in proportion to the votes obtained by their lists. Mapai proposed that the country be divided into 120 single-member constituencies. The General Zionists proposed the setting up of an unspecified number of constituencies, each to elect several members by proportional representation. Both amendments were defeated by large majorities.

A National Religious party amendment, providing that the election clause might be amended in the future only by a majority of all 120 Knesset members, was passed by a vote of 56 to 54, against the votes of Mapai, the Progressives, and some of the General Zionists. It was doubtful whether a future Knesset could be prevented from repealing this amendment itself by an ordinary majority vote.

The entire law, as amended, was passed unanimously.

On July 22, 1957, the prime minister announced in the Knesset that the late James de Rothschild, of London, had bequeathed £6 million for the erection of the Knesset's permanent building in Jerusalem. On July 24, the architect J. Klarwein was awarded the first prize in the competition for the design of the building.

Cabinet Crises

On December 30, 1957, Prime Minister Ben-Gurion submitted the government's resignation because of the leakage to the press of a confidential cabinet decision on the sending to Germany of a high-ranking representative on a mission connected with Israel's security. Ben-Gurion contended that the Ahdut ha-'Avodah ministers were responsible for the leak. After the parties agreed on rules to prevent such leaks in the future, the cabinet was reconstituted, with the same composition, on January 7, 1958.

On July 1, 1958, Moses Hayyim Shapira and Joseph Burg, the ministers representing the National Religious party (ha-Po'el ha-Mizrahi and Mizrahi) resigned from the cabinet in protest against a cabinet decision that children of mixed marriages would be registered on their identity cards as Jewish by nationality if both parents so desired.
The National Religious party, supported by the Orthodox Agudat Israel and Po'ale Agudat Israel, contended that there could be no distinction between a Jew by nationality and a Jew by religion, and that the question of who was a Jew could be decided only by Jewish religious law. Interior Minister Israel Bar-Yehuda, who was responsible for drafting the new registration regulations, contended that they were in keeping with those in force previously, and that the government did not purport to determine who was a Jew by religion. The new regulations, he said, were necessary to obviate confusion and to deal with the problem of the children of the many mixed couples among recent immigrants from Poland.

After the resignation of the National Religious party ministers, the government was supported in the Knesset by Mapai (Israel Labor party), with 40 seats; Ahdut ha-'Avodah—Po'ale Zion (Unity of Labor party), with 10; Mapam (United Workers party), with 9, and the Progressives, with 5.

In addition to these 64 votes, the cabinet was also generally supported by the 5 members of the Arab and Druse parties. In opposition were Herut, with 15 seats; the General Zionists, with 13; the National Religious party, with 11; Agudat Israel and Po'ale Agudat Israel (Orthodox), with 6, and the Communists, with 6.

Tenth Anniversary Celebrations

Israel's tenth anniversary celebrations were to extend over the year beginning with Independence Day, April 24, 1958. They were planned by the World Tenth Anniversary Committee, headed by Meyer W. Weisgal, and included ceremonies in different parts of Israel and in many countries abroad. The largest single event was the Tenth Anniversary Exhibition in Jerusalem. This had over 600,000 visitors during the 78 days on which it was open, from June 5 to August 21, 1958.

Other events were special displays by the Israel Defense Forces; exhibitions of archeology, art, the collective settlement movement, and Arab and Druse folklore; and the International Bible Contest, the finals of which were held in Jerusalem on August 19, 1958. This event aroused widespread interest abroad and great enthusiasm in Israel. The five-hour broadcast of the finals was listened to by well over half the population. The winner, Amos Hakham of Jerusalem, became a national hero overnight. The runners-up were Mrs. Simone Dumont, of France, and Miss Irene Santos, of Brazil.

A feature of the celebrations was the number of international conventions held in Israel during the year. These included conferences of lawyers, doctors, Jewish youth, and Jewish students, as well as conventions of the United Jewish Appeal and the State of Israel Bonds.

Other Domestic Affairs

On January 27, 1958, Major General Hayyim Laskov was appointed Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces in place of General Dayyan, who had held the post for four years.

On October 1, 1957, Zeev Sharef, the Secretary to the Cabinet, resigned his
post, which he had held since the establishment of the State. Katriel Katz was appointed Secretary to the Cabinet as of October 1, 1958. There had been an acting secretary during the intervening year.

There were 42,570 civil servants on March 31, 1958, as against 40,775 a year earlier. These included administrative and professional employees, policemen, watchmen, and prison guards, but not teachers, soldiers, civilian employees of the armed forces and arms industry, or employees recruited abroad by diplomatic missions and consulates. The ratio of civil servants to the population remained stationary, at 2.9 per cent. Of the total, 44.4 per cent were employed in services to the public, 24.4 per cent in foreign relations and internal and external security, 21 per cent in economic affairs, 5.9 per cent in social welfare and education, and 5 per cent in organizational and administrative ministries.

There were no general changes in civil-service salaries during the year, but negotiations took place with engineers, physicians, and lawyers in government service on grading and on working conditions, and additional professional salary scales were instituted for journalists and technicians.

KASTNER MURDER TRIAL

The Tel-Aviv district court sentenced Zeev Eckstein, Joseph Menkes, and Dan Shemer to life imprisonment on January 7, 1958, for the murder of Israel Kastner, who had been the principal figure in the sensational libel action in 1955 (see American Jewish Year Book, 1956 [Vol. 57], pp. 496–97; 1958 [Vol. 59], p. 381) against Malchiel Gruenwald, who had accused him of collaborating with the Nazis during World War II.

On January 17, 1958, the Supreme Court in Jerusalem quashed the verdict of the Jerusalem district court, which had accepted the defense’s plea of truth on three of the four principal charges in this libel action, and gave Gruenwald a suspended sentence of a year in prison. The Supreme Court unanimously found Kastner innocent of the charge of indirectly causing the destruction of Hungarian Jewry, and by four votes to one cleared him of the charge of collaborating with the Nazis. All five judges, however, accepted the lower court’s finding that Kastner had been instrumental in securing the release of Kurt Becher, although he knew him to be a war criminal.

OTHER CASES

On July 17, 1957, the Tel-Aviv district court awarded Amos Ben-Gurion, deputy inspector-general of police, and son of the prime minister, IL7,000 damages in his libel suit against Shurat ha-Mitnaddevim (the Volunteers’ League) clearing him of all the charges of irregularities in the conduct of his office brought against him by the League.

On October 17, 1958, a military court, headed by Judge Benjamin ha-Levi, president of the Jerusalem district court, completed the trial of 11 members of the Border Patrol for the murder of 47 Israel Arabs of Kafr Kassim village. The Arabs had been killed on October 29, 1956, the eve of the Sinai campaign, in the enforcement of the curfew on Israel’s eastern border. Two officers, one corporal, and five privates were sentenced to terms of imprison-
ment ranging from 7 to 17 years, and three privates were acquitted. The court also censured the brigade commander under whose orders the defendants had acted.

Population and Migration

At the end of December 1957 there were approximately 1,763,000 Jews and 213,000 non-Jews in Israel, the latter including 147,000 Moslems, 45,000 Christians, and 21,000 Druse. At the end of June 1958 the figures were 1,779,857 Jews and 217,395 non-Jews. Of the population increase of 105,000 in 1957, net immigration supplied about 60,000 and natural increase the remainder.

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<td>1958 (June)</td>
<td>1,997,252</td>
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a Estimated.

There were 71,130 immigrants in 1957, against 56,234 in 1956. Another 8,547 came in the first six months of 1958, bringing the total number of immigrants since the establishment of the State of Israel to over 914,000. Emigration from Israel in 1957 amounted to about 11,000, about as much as in 1956. From the establishment of the State to the end of 1957 about 90,000 Jews had left Israel to settle in other countries.

In 1957 Eastern Europe, mainly Poland and Hungary, supplied over 56 per cent of the immigrants. Eighteen per cent came from Egypt, 17 per cent from other countries in North Africa, and 5 per cent from Asian countries. The considerable fall in immigration in the first half of 1958 was due mainly to the end of the special circumstances stimulating Jewish immigration from Poland, Hungary, and Egypt. The proportion of immigrants from Eastern Europe fell to 32 per cent and of those from Africa to 16 per cent, while 43 per cent came from Asia. In the last quarter of 1958 the number of immigrants from Eastern Europe again began to increase.

During 1957 the Jewish birth rate fell 0.7 to 26.0 per thousand, and the Moslem birth rate fell 1.1 to 50.6 per thousand. The Druse birth rate was almost stationary at 47.4 and the Christian birth rate rose 0.7 to 34.5 per thousand.

The 0–20 age group of the Jewish population increased from 37 per cent
in 1948 to 42 per cent at the end of 1957. The group over 45 rose from 19 per cent in 1948 to 24 per cent at the end of 1957.

The Jewish death rate was almost stationary at 6.2 per thousand, while the Moslem death rate rose slightly to 10.4 per thousand and the Christian and Druse rates fell slightly to 7.5 and 8.9 per thousand respectively.

**Distribution of the Population**

At the end of 1957 urban population constituted 72 per cent of the total, compared with 71.3 per cent in 1956. The proportion in the three chief cities—Jerusalem, Haifa, and Tel-Aviv—fell slightly, from 35.5 per cent in 1956 to 34.5 per cent in 1957; it had been 44.5 per cent in 1949.

Of the Arab and Druse population, 74 per cent lived in 103 villages and a number of Bedouin encampments at the end of 1957, and the remainder in Nazareth, Shefar'am, and six mixed Arab-Jewish towns.

**Economic Developments**

A manpower survey in June 1957 showed that the total population aged 14 years and over had risen 5.4 per cent since June 1956 to 1,267,700, and the number employed had risen 11.3 per cent to 639,000. There were slight percentage increases in employment in productive occupations and slight decreases in the services.

**National Income**

The 1957 gross national product was IL3,060 million, an increase of IL290 million over 1956. The rate of increase was 10.5 per cent, about the same as in 1956. Per capita income rose to IL1,300 in 1957, an increase of about 13 per cent, or 4 per cent at constant prices. Per capita income in 1950 had been about IL725 at 1957 prices.

**Industry**

Industrial production continued to rise in 1957. The aggregate value of industrial output (including mining but not electricity and petroleum) was estimated at IL1,515 million, a rise of some 14 per cent in constant prices over 1956. Value added by industry was estimated at IL574 million in 1957, a 23.2 per cent increase over 1956.

The rise in output was due to a 6 per cent rise in employment, the increased supply of domestic and imported raw materials, the maturing of investments made in previous years, and the intensified use of existing productive capacity.

Industrial exports in 1957 were $82 million, an increase of about 33 per cent over 1956. A third of the rise was due to increased exports of cut diamonds, in which Israel now accounted for about one-fifth of world production.

Principal exports included cut diamonds, $32.7 million; textiles and wearing apparel, $7.8 million; rubber tires and tubes, $4.9 million; cement, $8.5 million; fruit juices, $2.7 million; drugs and medicines, $2.7 million; plywood,
$2.4 million, and motor vehicles, $1.6 million. Exports of all these commodities, except fruit juices, were considerably higher than in 1956. In 1949 industrial exports had amounted to $10.5 million, almost half consisting of diamonds.

INVESTMENTS

The decline in defense expenditure after the Sinai campaign made it possible to channel more resources to investment. Gross investments increased 20.8 per cent, to IL840.3 million in 1957. Part of the increase reflected a rise of 6 per cent in the prices of capital goods, 7 per cent in building costs, and about 9 per cent in the cost of non-building construction. The government, the Jewish Agency, and local authorities financed 50 per cent in 1957, against 53 per cent in 1956.

AGRICULTURE

Gross agricultural production in 1956-57 was IL631 million, an increase of 20 per cent over 1955-56. Since prices were up 9 per cent, the real increase in production was about 10 per cent. In 1957 the cultivated area was 3,840,000 dunams (one dunam = about \( \frac{1}{4} \) acre), of which 1,225,000 dunams were irrigated. In 1956-57 the irrigated area was 1,100,000 dunams and in 1948-49, 300,000. The Hulah irrigation project, completed on October 31, 1957, added 60,000 dunams of fertile soil to the country's land reserves, accounting for most of the increase in irrigated areas. The increase in the area under cultivation, an increase in livestock, a rise in the number of agricultural workers due to immigration, improved efficiency, and favorable weather conditions combined to make a good year. Fifteen per cent of agricultural production was exported.

Gross investment in agriculture in 1957 (including investment in water-works) was about IL158 million, 12 per cent more than 1956. Agricultural exports increased 23 per cent in 1957 to IL53.7 million. Citrus exports, 89 per cent of total agricultural exports, were 5 per cent higher in 1957 than in 1956, and prices obtained were on the average 11 per cent higher.

BUILDING

Because of the need to house the large influx of new immigrants, building in 1957 rose to IL361 million, from IL274 million (in 1957 prices) in 1956. Work was begun on 44,800 dwelling units, compared with 22,800 in 1956, but the number of units completed remained virtually unchanged (32,000 in 1957, and 31,300 in 1956). During the first five months of 1958 the number of rooms started in the main urban areas fell slightly from the corresponding period of 1957, while the number completed rose 54 per cent. The average number of persons per room in the first half of 1957 was 2.1, compared with 2.2 in 1956. The number of persons living in ma'barot (temporary quarters for immigrants) was 17,000 in May 1958, against 32,000 and 44,000 in May 1957 and 1956, respectively.
TRANSPORTATION

The output of the transportation industry rose IL355 million in 1957, an increase of 9 per cent (in constant prices) over 1956. The increase affected all branches of transportation: shipping activity increased about 13 per cent; El Al Israel Airlines expanded its operations about 8 per cent, and railway traffic rose 29 per cent.

The opening of the new road from Beersheba to the port of Eilat on January 16, 1957, reduced the travel time from 8 to 4½ hours and cut transport costs from Tel-Aviv to Eilat 30 per cent.

At the end of June 1958 the Israeli merchant marine consisted of 4 passenger ships, 4 tankers, and 27 freighters, with a total deadweight tonnage of 267,000 tons. The merchant marine was being modernized and expanded, 6 new vessels having been acquired from Germany under the Reparations Agreement.

During 1957 El Al acquired three Bristol Britannia airliners, which considerably reduced the time required for the Atlantic crossing.

Work was started on March 20, 1957, on the Beersheba-Dimonah railway, which was later to be extended to the phosphate mines at Oron, and ultimately to Eilat.

PRICES

The consumer's price index (1951 = 100) stood at 249 in June 1956, 258 in June 1957, and 267 in June 1958. The price rises were thus 3.5 per cent in 1957 and 3.4 per cent in 1958. Average building costs in 1957 rose 7 per cent over 1956, but fell 8 per cent between January and June 1958.

EMPLOYMENT

The average number of gainfully employed rose 9 per cent, to 644.8 thousand in 1957. The average number of registered unemployed rose less than 2 per cent, to 12,513, in spite of the rise in the population. Unemployment dropped further in the first four months of 1958; in April 1958 it was 9,670, down 3,490 from April 1957.

Though there was no increase in basic wages in 1957, gross wages and salaries per worker rose 9 per cent, owing to cost-of-living allowances, upgradings due to skill, seniority, and family allowances, increased output, and longer working hours. Increased cost-of-living allowances due to higher prices accounted for about half of the rise.

There were 59 strikes in 1957 (74 in 1956), and the number of days lost was 165,549 in 1957 (112,756 in 1956). The rise in days lost was due almost entirely to the 106-day strike of 1,600 Ata textile workers, which was settled on August 18, 1957.

The Histadrut, the General Federation of Labor, decided to increase worker participation in the management of Solel Boneh, the Federation's industrial and contracting combine, and to reorganize it so as to strengthen the control of Hevrat 'Ovedim, the Histadrut's economic arm.
FOREIGN TRADE

The rise in world market prices in 1957 resulted in a 5 per cent increase in import prices and a 6 per cent increase in export prices. Since Israel's imports were substantially greater than her exports, there was a greater absolute rise in the cost of her imports than in the earnings of her exports.

Imports of goods rose from $367 million in 1956 to $432 million in 1957 while exports rose from $110 million to $139 million. But this 12 per cent deterioration in the commodity balance of trade was more than offset by a $52 million contraction in the government's foreign-currency spending. Exports in the first half of 1958 (including most of the season's citrus exports) amounted to $84.5 million, compared with $82.8 million in the corresponding period of 1957.

The number of tourists rose in the second half of 1957 as the effects of the Sinai campaign wore off, and the total for the year was 44,559, compared to 42,567 in 1956. Income from tourism fell off, however, from $6.6 million to $5.5 million. During the first half of 1958, owing to the tenth anniversary celebrations, the number of tourists rose to 38,000 and income from tourism was $6.9 million, more than in all of 1957.

Education

At the beginning of the 1958-59 school year there were about 550,000 pupils and students in the country's kindergartens, schools, and colleges of all types, 6.5 per cent more than in 1957-58. In 1957-58 there were 4,373 students in the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, compared with 3,663 in 1956-57 and 870 in 1948. Of these 1,839 studied the humanities and social sciences, 824 mathematics and natural science, 651 medicine (including dentistry and pharmacy), 398 law, 291 agriculture, and 21 library service. There were also 359 research students. The teaching staff was 650, against 190 in 1948. The university awarded 485 degrees at the end of the 1957-58 season, bringing the total number of graduates since 1948 to 4,075.

The Technion, the Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, had 2,284 students, compared with 2,021 in 1957 and 678 in 1948. Its extension division had about 3,000 students in 1957-58.

In the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, 180 scientists worked in ten departments in 1958. Tel-Aviv University had about 1,570 students, 1,300 of them in the school of law and economics. Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan had about 240 students. The New Bezalel School of Art had about 160 students in day classes and 100 in evening classes.

In April 1958 the new campus of the Hebrew University, built because of Jordan's prevention of access to the original buildings on Mount Scopus, was officially opened. The Israel Institute of Technology opened aeronautical engineering laboratories on September 5, 1957, in the new Technion City, and the Churchill Auditorium and the Einstein Institute of Physics on May 29, 1958. The Institute of Nuclear Science was added to the Weizmann Institute on May 20. The Rubin Academy of Music (formerly the New Jerusalem Conservatoire and Academy of Music) opened its doors in a new and spacious
building on September 25, 1958, with about a thousand students and 70 teachers. The Negev Research Institute for arid-zone research was opened in Beersheba on October 31, 1957.

The 80th birthday of the famous theologian and philosopher Martin Buber, professor emeritus of social philosophy in the Hebrew University, was widely celebrated in Israel, as well as throughout the world, on February 8, 1958. The 60th birthday of Gershom Scholem, professor of Jewish mysticism in the Hebrew University, was celebrated on December 5, 1957.

**Educational Innovations**

The introduction of a "Jewish consciousness" program in the schools was widely discussed during the year. Worked out by a joint committee of educators and men in public life, it was designed to give the children in the state schools a better understanding of Jewish religious traditions and observances, Jewish thought and life, and the problems of Diaspora Jewry. The program was criticized by religious circles as not going far enough, and by anti-clericals as introducing ideological indoctrination into the schools, but a beginning was made in putting it into effect.

Another innovation, expanded during the year, was the addition of 9 to 15 hours per week of pre-vocational training in handwork in the elementary schools at the option of the parents. There were 150 pre-vocational classes, with 9,690 pupils, in 1957–58, compared with 108 classes, with 5,070 pupils, in 1956–57.

Special measures to help new-immigrant children catch up with native-born children in their studies included extra lessons paid for by the state, and an extra year of free tuition for those who had not reached the standard required for secondary-school admission.

In 1957–58 the Ministry of Education was responsible for 660 extra-curricular institutions such as clubs, playing fields, youth hostels, and vacation schools, serving 92,270 children, compared with 268 institutions and 31,000 children in 1956–57.

**Cultural Activities**

A World Conference of Jewish Studies opened in Jerusalem on July 28, 1957. An Ideological Conference, organized by the World Zionist Organization, opened in the same city on August 8. The World Conference on Nuclear Structure opened at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot on September 8. The fifth Maccabiah, the world Jewish sports festival, opened at Ramat Gan on September 15. The Tabil International Stamp Exhibition opened in Tel-Aviv on September 17, 1957.

The Israel Exploration Society met in Haifa on October 13, 1957, the Israel Biblical Research Society in Jerusalem on March 30, 1958, and the Israel Historical Society, also in Jerusalem, on April 6. The two latter meetings dealt with subjects appropriate to the approaching anniversary—"The Return to Zion and the Redemption of Israel" and "Messianism and Nationalism" as exemplified in the Bible.
Theatre and Dance

About 2,000 performances were given to audiences totaling about a million and a half people in the 1957-58 season by the Habimah, Kameri, Ohel, and other theatre companies. Among the outstanding productions of Habimah were The Visions of Simone Machard, by Bertolt Brecht, The Egg, by Félicien Marceau, and two Israeli plays: Hannah Senesh, by Moshe Shamir, and Each Had Six Wings, by Enoch Bartur. Habimah also presented Ansky's Dibbuk and Euripides' Medea at the International Theatre Festival in Paris.

The Kameri theatre produced The Shoemaker's Wife, by Garcia Lorca; Marius, by Marcel Pagnol; The Emperor Jones, by Eugene O'Neill; Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, and The War of the Sons of Light, by Moshe Shamir.

Ohel theatre presented The Pedagogic Poem, by Makarenko; two Israeli plays: Shamir's All for the Best and Yosh's The Blockade Runners, and an adapted classic of the Yiddish stage, Goldfaden's Shulammith.

The latter was also presented in an Israeli musical comedy version by the Do-Re-Mi revue company, which later, however, suspended operations. Two other revue troupes that performed frequently during the year were Sambatyon and Batzal Yarok (Green Onion).

The Israel National Opera reopened in new premises with performances of Gounod's Faust, Donizetti's Don Pasquale, and Verdi's Nabucco. The Inbal Yemenite dance troupe had a successful tour of Western Europe and the United States in the winter of 1957-58. The fourth Dance Festival was held at Daliah, in Galilee, on July 8, 1958.

Music

The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra had about 20,000 subscribers in the 1957-58 season. On October 1, 1957, the Fredric Mann Auditorium was opened in Tel-Aviv as the orchestra's permanent home. The auditorium was built with the assistance of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation and the Tel-Aviv Municipality.

The number of permanent members of the Kol Israel (broadcasting service) orchestra was increased from 22 to 44 during the year. It presented a number of first performances of Israeli music.

A novelty for Israel was the introduction of electronic music with Exodus from Egypt, a ballet by Joseph Tal.

Books

The 1957-58 publishing season brought forth 1,250 books. Israel was second in the world in the number of book titles published per capita. Among the outstanding literary events were the publication of S. Izhar's new novel, Days of Ziklag, Nathan Alterman's Oppressive City, Volume VIII of the Talmudic Encyclopedia, and Volume IX (the 11th to be published) of the Hebrew Encyclopedia, which had 55,000 subscribers.
Jewish Religious Affairs

The main event of the year in the country's religious life was the opening of Hechal Shelomo, the religious center and seat of the Chief Rabbinate, in Jerusalem on May 8, 1958.

There were 174 religious councils in 1956–57. They spent IL3.8 million on the provision of religious services in the various localities, in addition to what was spent by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Twenty-eight additional rabbis were appointed during 1957–58, bringing the total to 325. Religious committees supported by the Ministry of Religious Affairs supplied 150 rabbis, about 300 shohatim, and 40 religious instructors for 365 new immigrants' settlements.

There were 14,471 marriages and 2,124 divorces in 1957, compared with 13,678 marriages and 2,007 divorces in 1956.

Of the 4,000 synagogues in Israel, 346 were established in 1957. (There were about 900 in 1948.) About a thousand synagogues were in buildings belonging to the government's Development Authority and the 'Ammidar public housing corporation, and furnished rent free to the Ministry of Religious Affairs, which was responsible for their upkeep, under an agreement concluded in 1957.

In 1957 Israel exported over 88,000 mezuzot, about 15,000 phylacteries, and 86 Torah scrolls, for which it received $280,000.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs granted subventions to 149 yeshivot, with over 7,000 students, in 1957, as against 50 yeshivot with 3,000 students in 1948.

Christian and Moslem Communities

The Ministry continued to help the Christian communities maintain their religious activities. It cared for abandoned Christian churches and cemeteries and facilitated pilgrimages by Christians from abroad to holy places in Israel, and by Israel's Christian citizens to the holy places in Jordan at Christmas.

The Ministry's Department for Moslem and Druse Affairs contributed in 1957 to the salaries of 170 Moslem religious dignitaries and assisted in the repair of a number of mosques.

Arabs in Israel

Israel's non-Jewish population numbered 217,395 at the end of June 1958. In 1958, of 8 Arab members of the Knesset, the Israel Arab Democrats had 2, the Progress and Work party 2, the Agriculture and Development party 1, Communists 2, and Mapam 1. (The first three groups were Arab parties.)

Arabs farmed 950,000 dunams (almost 250,000 acres) in 1957, more than 80 per cent being owned by the cultivators. About 800,000 dunams of this

*Strictly speaking the Druses, Circassians, and a few smaller communities are not Arabs.
were cultivated each year. Thirty thousand dunams were irrigated, compared
with 19,000 dunams in 1955 and 2,000 dunams in 1948. Grains were grown
on about three-quarters of the area, olives on 70,000 dunams; grapes, figs,
citrus, and other plantations on 55,000; vegetables on 40,000; tobacco on
30,000. Arab farms had 165 tractors, combines, and other agricultural machines
in 1957, compared with 5 in 1948.

During the 1957 harvest combines acquired with government aid were put
into use for the first time among the Bedouin of the South; until then they
had harvested their crops by hand. Another innovation was the leasing of
government lands to Bedouin farmers through the tribal sheikhs. The first two
Bedouin cooperatives were established, and acquired tractors, ploughs, and
other machinery with the aid of government loans and members' savings.

By the summer of 1957, about 60 Arab villages had benefited from the
installation of piped water and irrigation works.

During 1957 the government arranged for demonstrations of improved agri-
cultural methods, courses and lectures in agricultural subjects, and agricultural
training for young people.

In 1957 some 500 Arab families earned their living from fishing and owned
some 50 fishing vessels, many of them motorized. In 1948 there had been 30
to 40 Arab fishermen, with five or six rowboats.

Following the relaxation of border tension after the Sinai campaign, a
number of relaxations were made in military government regulations. For
example, permits were no longer required for travel between villages in
Galilee and Nazareth, Afula and Acre, and night curfew in the central frontier
area was limited to the hours from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Since June 1957 two special Druse secretaries have been employed in the
Haifa and Acre labor exchanges to assist Druses demobilized from the Israel
Defense Forces in obtaining housing, employment, etc. There were 417
Druses, Moslems, and Christians in the Israel Police Force.

At the beginning of 1957, 45 per cent of Israel's Arab and Druse popula-
tion, about 95,000 persons, enjoyed the benefits of local self-government, as
follows: in 2 Arab towns (Nazareth and Shefar'am), 28,500; in 15 villages with
local councils, 48,000; in 16 mixed towns (Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv, Jaffa, Haifa,
Acre, Ramleh, and Lydda), 22,000; in 2 villages included in mixed regional
councils, 1,000. It was planned to set up about 15 more local councils in 1958.

In September 1958 the Northern District government offices were trans-
ferred from Tiberias to Nazareth, and an Arab was appointed as one of the
district officers under the district representative.

In September 1957 St. Joseph's Catholic High School, built with the aid of
contributions from European Catholics and special exemptions granted by
the government, was opened in Nazareth.

From the passage of the Land Acquisition Law of 1953 to March 31, 1957,
indemnities of 16,500 dunams of land and IL2,600,000 in cash had been paid
to 2,215 Arabs who had fled their homes for other parts of Israel during the
war or who had been resettled for security reasons. In January 1958 the gov-
ernment decided on a special allocation of IL10.5 million for housing and
rehabilitation of Arab refugees in Israel, and it was estimated that another
IL10 million would be spent from the ordinary budget. About 3,500 families
remained to be rehabilitated. During the last season about 60,000 dunams of
government lands were leased on easy terms to farmers among the refugees.

A health center to serve the surrounding villages was set up in April 1958
at Baqa al-Gharbiya. Government health services employed 72 Arabs, includ-
ing 3 doctors and 52 nurses. There were 18 Arab students at the Hebrew Uni-
versity-Hadasah Medical School. A special radio station for Arabic broad-
casts, operating six hours a day, was set up in January 1958. Five Arab boy
scouts and one girl guide were members of Israel's delegation to the Centenary
Scout Jamboree in England in the summer of 1957. Some 30 poets were writing
in Arabic, including eight Jews. Sixteen Arabic periodicals, including one
daily and eight weeklies, appeared.

Personalia

Ina Govinska, veteran actress of Habimah Theatre, died in Tel-Aviv on
June 24, 1957, at the age of 62. Eliezer Siegfried Hoofien, chairman of the
board of directors of the Bank Leumi, died in Kefar Shemaryahu on July 7,
1957, at the age of 76. Isaac Heinemann, formerly professor of Hellenistic
studies at Breslau University and the Jewish Theological Seminary in Breslau,
died in Jerusalem on July 30, 1957, at the age of 81. Colonel Nehemiah Argov,
military secretary of the prime minister, died in Tel-Aviv on November 4,
1957, at the age of 42. Moses Bejarano, industrialist and public figure, died in
Tel-Aviv on December 14, 1957, at the age of 56. Joshua Talmi ("Reb Bin-
yamin"), author and one of the founders of Tel-Aviv, died in Jerusalem on
December 15, 1957, at the age of 78. Victor (Avigdor) Tcherikover, professor
of ancient history at the Hebrew University, died in Jerusalem on January
16, 1958, at the age of 64. Eliezer Krol, defender of Tel-Hai, member of the
Second Aliyah, and one of the founders of ha-Shomer, died in Safad on March
26, 1958, at the age of 72. Richard Michael Koebner, formerly professor of
modern history at the Hebrew University, died in London in May 1958, at
the age of 73. Jacob Fichman, poet and author, died in Tel-Aviv on May 17,
1958, at the age of 78.

MISHA LOUVISH
Although Arab aspirations for unity seemed to be unattainable in mid-1957, the situation had changed sharply by the beginning of 1958. The formation of the United Arab Republic (UAR) of Egypt and Syria on February 1, 1958, raised the prestige of UAR President Gamal Abdel Nasser to unprecedented heights throughout the Arab East. As president of Egypt, Nasser had already come to symbolize Arab nationalism in the minds of most of the younger generation, even in those countries whose governments were opposed to his policies. Repercussions of his domestic and international political successes were felt not only in Egypt and Syria, but also in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and the Arabian peninsula. To almost all Arab nationalists, he seemed to articulate aspirations which had been their own for many years.

Egypt encouraged and exploited this strong popular sentiment to strengthen its position in the Middle East and in international politics. Radio Cairo broadcasts, Egyptian subversion of hostile governments, and public statements by Egyptian leaders and press intensified the already existing popular discontent with governments in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Arabian peninsula. Endemic political instability and economic and social unrest created the basis for violent eruptions.

The Middle East, always an area of major international concern, became increasingly a center of potential conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union as each of these great powers attempted to influence the rapidly changing political environment there. Its problems occupied the attention of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly for a large proportion of their meetings during the year.

The Palestine Problem

Although the Palestine problem was overshadowed during 1958 by the internal developments in the Arab world, Israel's relations with its Arab neighbors continued to create friction. The Gaza frontier, under the supervision of the UN Emergency Force (UNEF), remained quiet, but there were numerous incidents along Israel's borders with Syria and Jordan. Jordan complained to the UN Security Council on November 22, 1957, about Israel's planting of olive trees in a neutral zone in the Mount Scopus area of Jerusalem. Early in December UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold arranged a provisional settlement and Israeli convoys were permitted to renew their visits to Jewish institutions on Mount Scopus. Hammarskjold appointed Francisco Urrutia, a Colombian diplomat, to continue negotiations between Israel and Jordan until a final *modus vivendi* could be worked out. Despite Urrutia's efforts,
charges and countercharges continued through the spring of 1958. UN Under Secretary Ralph Bunche, after a number of talks with the disputants, reported that he had concluded "satisfactory" meetings on May 13. But by June, continued skirmishes brought Andrew Cordier, Hammarskjold's executive assistant, to the scene. After June, other events in the Middle East lessened the importance and conspicuousness of the Mount Scopus controversy.

**Lebanese Revolution**

Many Lebanese Muslims had become restive. They complained that they were under-represented in the government and that the Christians discriminated against them, and they wanted to become part of a greater Arab state or federation. Most Christians, on the other hand, feared the loss of their country's distinctive identity and the prestige and influence which they enjoyed in a more or less Christian Lebanon. But, although communal tensions had been growing, there was no overt clash until 1958.

On the one side were followers of Maronite Catholic President Camille Chamoun; on the other, the opposition, led by a predominantly Moslem group favoring closer ties with the UAR and critical of the government's allegedly pro-American policy, symbolized by its support of the Eisenhower Doctrine (see p. 113). The opposition also included some non-Muslims who opposed the president for personal and domestic reasons rather than for his international policies. These included the Maronite Patriarch Paul Maushi. Early in May, the assassination of Nasib Matni, editor of a left-wing and pro-Nasser newspaper, caused widespread rioting and bloodshed. Nationwide protest demonstrations and a general strike were organized by the opposition. Violent clashes between the government's supporters and opponents soon divided the country, the largest areas falling into the hands of armed bands opposed to the government. As their bitterness against the president increased, his opponents demanded his resignation as a condition for laying down their arms and calling off the strike and other forceful measures against the government. They accused Chamoun of plotting to amend the constitution so as to become president for a second consecutive term of office.

The government charged that the rebels were instigated and aided by the UAR. Since President Nasser was regarded by most Lebanese Arab nationalists as the leader of the Arab unity movement, while most Lebanese Christians were indifferent or hostile to it, the conflict soon developed into one between a government supported mostly by anti-Nasser Christians and an opposition supported mostly by pro-Nasser Muslims.

Tensions seemed to ease somewhat when Chamoun announced he would not seek a second term as president. On July 31, 1958, General Fuad Shehab was named by the Lebanese parliament to succeed Chamoun. (United States troops had landed in Beirut on July 15; see below.) Since 48 of the 66 members of parliament voted for the general, it was believed that he would be able to reconcile the contending factions. But when the new president appointed a cabinet headed by Rashid Karami, leader of the former opposition forces in Tripoli, the largely Maronite Phalangist party took up arms against the new government, charging that Shehab had rewarded the former
opposition instead of punishing them. Late in October a compromise government was formed, and violence began to subside.

**Iraq, Jordan, and the Arab Federation**

In mid-July 1958, the revolution in Lebanon became closely linked with upheavals in Iraq and Jordan. On February 14, 1958, those two countries had formed a federation, with King Faisal of Iraq as chief of state, to counteract the appeal of Nasser and the UAR. Within the new Arab Federation, Jordan and Iraq were to maintain their separate identities and functions except for defense, foreign affairs, finance, and education, which would be handled by joint ministries. Although King Faisal was chief of state, Jordan’s King Hussein retained his throne. The Arab Federation was a looser union than the UAR, which fused Egypt and Syria into a single nation under Nasser. Thus, Jordan and Iraq retained their separate memberships in the UN, while the UAR held only one membership. The supreme legislative body of the Arab Federation was to be a federal council, alternating between Baghdad and Amman, but was not to replace the existing Jordanian and Iraqi parliaments; in the UAR there was one parliament.

An even more fundamental difference between the UAR and the Arab Federation lay in the popular reaction to their creation. The Hashemite federation evoked little popular enthusiasm, although initially it was welcomed by all the chiefs of state in the area, including Nasser. On the other hand, Arab nationalists were enthusiastic about the UAR. In Damascus huge crowds surged through the streets for days acclaiming the union, and hundreds of thousands of Lebanese came across the border to welcome Nasser on his first visit to the Northern Province, as Syria was now called. The Egyptians were generally less emotional in their reaction.

The rulers of the Arab Federation were unable to prevent the rise of revolutionary forces within their own borders. In both Jordan and Iraq social and economic conditions bred popular discontent. The Western ties of the Hashemite rulers through such agencies as the Baghdad Pact were strongly opposed by the pro-Nasser Arab nationalists, who favored a policy of “positive neutralism.” In Jordan this sentiment was abetted by Egyptian radio broadcasts, propaganda, and agents. In both kingdoms plots were hatched to overthrow the governments and to establish republics which would be closely tied to the UAR, if not united or federated with it.

In Iraq a group of army officers led by Brigadier General Abdul Karim Kassem and Colonel Abdul Salam Aref, working with a group of civilians who were largely left-of-center, overthrew the monarchy and established the Republic of Iraq on July 14. During the revolt, Prime Minister Nuri al-Said, King Faisal, and his uncle, Crown Prince and ex-Regent Abdul Illah, were killed. A new coalition of nationalist officers and left-wing leaders who had long been *personae non gratae* in Iraq came to power, promising fundamental social reforms. By early October 1958, political differences between Kassem and Aref had led to a decline in the power of Aref and his Ba’athist supporters in the government, who reportedly favored union with the UAR as soon as possible. Kassem, on the other hand, seemed to be increasingly dependent on the
support of Communist and other pro-Soviet elements, who resisted union with the UAR.

In Jordan King Hussein, with the assistance of British troops flown into the country on July 15, 1958, put down a similar conspiracy. But the situation remained tense, and Jordan’s continued existence as an independent nation was doubtful.

**British, American, and United Nations Activity**

The Lebanese government accused the UAR of instigating and aiding the Lebanese rebels in a note to the UAR, which was rejected on May 14, 1958. A few days later, the United States Department of State confirmed reports that consideration was being given to the dispatch of American troops to Lebanon if requested by President Chamoun. The State Department announced that policy would be coordinated with Great Britain. London also charged that outside influences and subversion had caused the crisis.

On May 21 the Lebanese government brought the matter to the attention of the Arab League and on the following day referred it to the UN Security Council. The latter postponed debate until the complaint was examined by the League, which met in Benghazi, Libya, on June 1, 1958. After several days of discussion a compromise resolution calling for stoppage of radio propaganda was rejected by Lebanon.

On June 6, when the League adjourned, Lebanese Foreign Minister Charles Malik brought before the Security Council charges that the UAR had engaged in gun-running, training of terrorists, and press and radio propaganda. He was backed by the delegates of the United States and the Arab Federation.

On June 11 the Security Council voted to send UN observers to Lebanon. Secretary General Hammarskjold immediately set up a three-man committee to head the team, which came to be called UN Observers Group in Lebanon (UNOGIL). Major General Odd Bull, the Norwegian military chief of UNOGIL, arrived in Beirut with an advance guard on June 16, and was followed a few days later by Hammarskjold.

Early in July UNOGIL submitted its first report to the Security Council. It stated that its officers had observed little infiltration of foreign forces into Lebanon, but pointed out that it had not been permitted by opposition leaders to visit many parts of the frontier and that the scarcity of staff and equipment had precluded a full investigation. In none of the first four UNOGIL reports were the Lebanese charges against the UAR substantiated. UNOGIL continued to build up its strength, until by October 1 it employed 217 officer ground observers, 22 air officers, and 46 non-commissioned officers.

The United States and Great Britain became directly involved in Lebanon and Jordan on July 15, when American forces were landed at Beirut and British troops were flown into Amman. Although the American and British moves were not officially related to the revolution in Baghdad, it was widely believed that the Anglo-American action had been taken to prevent the fall of Lebanon and Jordan to similar forces. On July 15 President Eisenhower announced officially that “the United States has dispatched . . . forces [to help Lebanon] to preserve order and to defend itself against indirect aggression.”
The Anglo-American troop movements precipitated an immediate international crisis. Finally, on August 21, a special emergency session of the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution offered jointly by ten Arab nations, including Lebanon and the UAR, calling on the states to respect each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty and refrain from interfering in each other's internal affairs. Secretary General Hammarskjold was to consult with the governments concerned in working out "practical arrangements" for upholding the UN Charter in relation to Lebanon and Jordan and to "facilitate the early withdrawal of the foreign troops from the two countries." Withdrawal of American forces had already begun a few days before the resolution was passed. By the beginning of October, nearly half the American troops had left Lebanon. (All had left by November.)

Late in September King Hussein announced that British troops would soon be leaving Jordan if conditions there permitted. This they did soon afterward.

EGYPT

By the end of 1958 the once large Egyptian Jewish community had dwindled to about 14,000, and only a few of those remaining expressed a positive desire to stay in the country. The number of Jews had continued to decline since the Palestine war ten years earlier. In 1947 the last official census had reported 65,639 Jews, and unofficial estimates went as high as 90,000; the discrepancy was believed to be due to the classification of many Jews as British, French, Greek, or Italian. Between 1948 and 1956 the figure dropped to between 40,000 and 50,000. After the Sinai campaign and the attack on Suez in 1956, the number of Jews declined rapidly.

The Jewish community in October 1956 included 15,000 to 20,000 stateless persons, 4,000 British subjects, 8,000 to 10,000 Italian citizens, and 4,000 to 6,000 Egyptian citizens, the rest (10,000 to 15,000) being nationals of France, Greece, and other countries. By the end of 1958 most of the stateless Jews had left. Those who remained were mostly Egyptian citizens and persons with foreign nationalities other than French or British.

About 10,000 Jews were left in Cairo, and 4,000 or 5,000 in Alexandria, where about 25,000 and 20,000 respectively had lived early in 1956. Almost all the Karaites, formerly about 5 per cent of the Jewish population, had left Egypt. The remaining Jews were mainly Sephardic.

About 15,000 Jews settled in Israel after the Suez crisis. Others went to France, Italy, various South American countries, the United States, and Canada.

During 1958, the Egyptian government permitted a few Jews to return to the country to manage businesses they had run before their exodus. It even allowed a few Jews who had not had resident status to return to administer their property in the country.

On April 15, 1958, a decree was promulgated denying access to the United
Arab Republic to Jews who were between 10 and 65 years old when they had left Egypt. New nationality legislation was introduced in the spring to authorize abrogation of the citizenship of any person suspected of Zionist activities, without defining Zionist.

The post-Sinai tendency to identify Arab nationalism with Islam had a direct impact on all minorities in Egypt, as in the rest of the Arab world. In Egypt not only the Jews but also the large Coptic, Greek, and Italian communities were becoming increasingly concerned about their status. Members of all minority communities were leaving the country in greater numbers because of uncertainty about the future. Egyptian leaders made no direct connection between Islam and the “true Egyptian,” but popular sentiment increasingly tended to include membership in the Islamic community among the attributes of a loyal citizen.

**Jewish Education and Religious Activity**

Before November 1956 there were six principal Jewish schools in Egypt: three in Cairo, two in Alexandria, and one in Tanta. The Tanta school, since closed, was administered by the Alliance Israélite Universelle. The largest Jewish school in Cairo, at Sebille, had 2,000 students in 1956, but only 300 to 400 by September 1958. Jewish educational institutions, like all others, were under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Education, which supplied them with teachers of Arabic. Jewish schools continued Hebrew studies for religious purposes. By direction of the Ministry of Education, the curriculum was revised to include several hours of Arab history.

The activities of the rabbinate in Cairo were very limited during 1958 because of fund shortages, lack of personnel, and the continued departure of large numbers of the community. In addition to administering education, the rabbinate supervised ritual slaughter, a small clinic, burial, and a social-welfare fund. It also maintained community records of vital statistics.

The large synagogue in Cairo continued to function, but most of the several score smaller synagogues were closed by the end of 1958. The ancient synagogue in Old Cairo remained open under the care of a Jewish custodian, but it was a government-sponsored tourist attraction rather than an institution for religious worship.

In June 1958 an Egyptian bank, with which the Jewish community and community council had dealt for many years, refused to recognize them as legal entities, despite protests that they had always been so recognized in the past. This gravely threatened the financial base of communal activity.

**LEBANON**

The exact number of Jews in Lebanon could not be determined because of the continuous irregular flow in and out of the country. In 1957-58 there were about 6,000 Jews in Beirut, mostly in the Wadi-Abu-Jamil district. In
Saida (Sidon) in southern Lebanon there were believed to be about 200 Jews. All but about 100 Lebanese Jews were Sephardim, originating from several countries along the Mediterranean coast, mainly Turkey and Syria. After the Palestine war in 1948, Lebanon's Jewish population had actually increased because of the influx of several hundred families who fled from Syria and Iraq. The community remained relatively prosperous despite some serious difficulty caused by the impact of the 1958 revolution on the national economy. It continued to maintain good social contacts with leaders in the country's commerce, business, political, and social life.

There were reports of pressure by Muslim extremist groups on the Jewish community early in the 1958 civil war, but the leaders of the community were able to continue to maintain close personal relations with chiefs of most political factions. Nevertheless, the Jewish community, like other minority groups, was apprehensive about the rise of a chauvinistic nationalism, and felt uncertain about the future.

Like most middle-class groups, the Jewish community was affected by the serious decline in Lebanon's economy during the revolution. Since there were Jewish shops in both Muslim and Christian areas, they were forced to remain closed during the long strikes of the respective communities. Ordinarily about 60 Jewish families received economic assistance from the community, but because of the economic dislocation caused by the civil war, the number had doubled by the late summer of 1958.

One commercial newspaper was owned by Jews. A few Jews were in government service, two of them in the Beirut municipality. At the American University of Beirut and in French institutions of higher learning there were a few Jewish professors.

**Community Organization and Activity**

A community council of twelve headed by an elected president led the Lebanese Jewish community and made decisions of major importance. The council was elected by the 300 to 400 members who paid a tax levied by the community. Committees were in charge of education, health and social-welfare funds, youth activities, synagogues, burial, and ritual slaughter.

**Syria**

Syria's once prosperous and influential Jewish community, numbering over 30,000 before 1947, had fallen to about 5,500 in 1958. Some 2,500 lived in Damascus, 2,000 in Aleppo, and 900 in Kamishli near the Turkish border in the north. The community had to rely upon assistance from abroad to maintain its communal institutions.

It was difficult for Jews to obtain permission to leave the country, and those wanting to leave permanently were required to pay fees and taxes far beyond their financial capacity. Jews were not permitted to buy or sell property, and
their bank accounts were frozen. In Kamishli, near Turkey, they required special passes to leave the town for visits to other parts of the country. After the union with Egypt, Kamishli Jews were allowed to move to other parts of the country, and it was hoped that philanthropic assistance would be permitted from the outside.

After the fusion of Syria and Egypt into the United Arab Republic, some of the restrictions on Syrian Jews were eased, and the attitude of the Egyptian officials who came to the country was a considerable improvement over that of the Syrian security authorities. Leaders of the Jewish community were assured by the Egyptians that they would be treated fairly and that the new political status of Syria would bring them no discomfort. Shortly after the union, restrictions on Jewish departures from the country were lifted, although those who desired to leave were required to turn over all immovable property to the government. Blocked accounts of Jewish citizens were unfrozen. It seemed that an attempt was being made to adjust regulations affecting Syrian Jews to conform with those affecting Jews in Egypt. Despite the easing of emigration requirements, few Jews left Syria during 1958, presumably because of unsettled conditions throughout the Middle East.

**Community Organization and Activity**

In Damascus the large Alliance school, which formerly belonged to the community, had been taken over by the Syrian government's Palestine Arab Refugee Institution several years back for the education of Arab refugees. Jewish institutions and their funds in both Damascus and Aleppo were under the supervision of the security authorities.

**IRAQ**

Of the 130,000 Jews who had lived in Iraq before the Palestine war, 3,500 to 5,000 remained in 1958, all but a few hundred in Baghdad. Two to three hundred lived in Basra, where before 1950 there had been more than 10,000 Jews. About 80 were in Diwaniwa, and 1 Jewish family remained in Mosul. The remnant of the Jewish community in Baghdad was among the minute group of prosperous middle- and upper-middle-class merchants, commercial agents, and white-collar workers. Since the country required technicians, administrators, and teachers for its vast prospective economic development and expansion, the Jewish and other minority groups were a valuable national asset.

However, the July revolution caused great concern to the minority communities. Although there was no overt hostility, they feared for the future, especially since many had close relations with officials in the old regime, or represented British or American concerns.

After the July 14 revolution, there was a strong tendency in the new regime to take measures against foreigners and those closely identified with the small
upper class which had formerly ruled Iraq. By October no action had been taken against any Jewish individual, but many members of the community were uneasy.

On the other hand, the opponents of the old regime released from jail and concentration camps by the new government included a few Jews, some of whom were even permitted to leave the country for Israel.

After the revolution, study of English and French was banned in all primary schools. The Jewish institutions, however, were permitted to continue their weekly hour of Hebrew instruction for religious purposes.

Don Peretz