

# Israel

---

**O**N THE HOME FRONT, the main feature of the year was the prestige of Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, reinforced by successful official visits to the United States and France. Despite growing criticism by former Premier David Ben-Gurion, Eshkol won a vote of confidence from his party and widespread approval from the press and general public when he resisted Ben-Gurion's demand for a fresh inquiry into the "Lavon Affair" (AJYB, 1962 [Vol. 63], pp. 401-03), though a strong minority continued to support Ben-Gurion.

Eshkol's friendly reception by President Lyndon B. Johnson was marked by the conclusion of a United States-Israel agreement for cooperation in the nuclear desalination of seawater. Israel's cooperation with developing countries was extended, particularly in Latin America.

Despite repeated Arab threats, the water carrier (pipeline) went into operation without incident, but anxiety was aroused by Arab announcements of long-term planning and closer military cooperation toward the end of attacking Israel at a propitious time. A number of Syrian attacks during the year led to clashes on the northern frontier, and there were several incidents on the border with Jordan in December.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Premier Eshkol and Foreign Minister Golda Meir continued to advocate local disarmament with mutual inspection, a great-power guarantee of the sovereignty and integrity of Israel and her neighbors, and the solution of all disputes between them by peaceful means. But there was little sign that the thaw in the cold war had reached the Middle East.

In reply to a Keneset question on May 20, Eshkol repeated David Ben-Gurion's assurance of December 1960, that "nuclear development in Israel is designed exclusively for peaceful purposes." The government of Israel, he declared, "has not taken the initiative in introducing new arms or new types of arms—either conventional or nonconventional—into the Middle East."

On January 16 the Prime Minister wrote Nikita S. Khrushchev that Israel agreed with the Soviet premier's emphasis, in his letter of December 31, 1963,

on "the necessity to forego the use of force for changing territorial situation of any frontiers that have come into existence, and the obligation to settle international disputes by peaceful means." However, he added, "My government maintains that a general and global undertaking is hardly enough, and that the principles in question must also be applied to specific regions."

Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser's reply to Khrushchev's letter excluded the Arab-Israel dispute from the scope of the principles proposed by the Soviet Union.

### *The Arab States*

The Arab summit conferences in Cairo in January and Alexandria in September reiterated the uncompromising hostility of the Arab states to Israel (p. 299). The Israeli government protested on September 13 against the "declaration by 13 states, members of the United Nations, announcing that it is their objective to attempt to destroy another state, also a member of the United Nations, and to plan a comprehensive military attack against Israel."

The prime minister answered an Arab threat to divert the upper tributaries of the Jordan in order to deprive Israel of water with a statement to the Knesset on January 20: "Israel will draw water from Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) within the quantities allotted her in the Unified Plan.<sup>1</sup> Israel will oppose unilateral and illegal measures by Arab countries and will act for the preservation of her vital rights." He pointed out, further, that Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon were drawing considerable quantities of water from the Jordan-Yarmuk system, and that Israel was drawing no more than her share from Lake Kinneret in accordance with the Johnston Plan.

The first stage of the water carrier (pipeline) to bring water from Lake Kinneret to irrigate the arid Negev, was completed in May and went into operation. No action was taken by the Arab states, despite their repeated declarations that they would regard its operation as a threat to peace.

Armed infiltration across the borders continued at intervals throughout the year, and Syrian posts repeatedly fired on Israeli farmers and workers in the demilitarized zones and other areas near the northern frontier. A series of grave shooting attacks by Syrian forces was brought to the attention of the president of the UN Security Council on July 8 by Michael Comay, Israel ambassador to the UN.

On November 13 Syrian posts fired on an Israeli patrol, ignored the UN observers' request for a cease-fire, and, when the Israeli forces returned fire, started shelling the villages of Dan and She'ar Yashuv. Israeli aircraft went into action to silence the Syrian artillery positions from which the villages were being shelled. General Odd Bull, chief of the UN Truce Supervision Organization, reported that the Syrians had started the shooting and, while

---

<sup>1</sup> The Johnston Plan for the utilization of the waters of the Jordan, the Yarmuk and their tributaries, which was negotiated by Ambassador Eric Johnston, President Dwight D. Eisenhower's special envoy, with Israeli, Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian experts, but rejected by the Arab League in 1955.

criticizing Israel for not attending the meetings of the Mixed Armistice Commission, added: "The prevailing atmosphere of tension between the two countries is also a consequence of Syria's steadfast refusal to seek an end to its conflict with Israel."

In the UN Security Council, the USSR supported Arab accusations of Israeli aggression and vetoed a United States-Great Britain resolution calling on both sides to keep the peace.

### *The United States and Western Europe*

Premier Eshkol paid an official visit to America from May 31 to June 11, on the invitation of President Johnson. It was the first such visit made by an Israeli prime minister. In a joint communiqué issued on June 2, President Johnson reiterated "United States support for the territorial integrity and political independence of all countries in the Near East" and emphasized "the firm opposition of the United States to aggression and the use of force or the threat of force against any country."

Agreement was also reached to undertake joint studies on problems of desalting seawater, as President Johnson had proposed in February, at a Weizmann Institute dinner in New York. Four United States experts came to Israel in July to examine the feasibility of the project together with Israeli experts and an observer from the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the joint team continued its inquiries in the United States in September. In October the team recommended that the United States and Israeli governments engage a consulting firm to prepare detailed studies, to be completed by mid-1965, for a dual-purpose nuclear power and desalting plant, to be in operation by 1971, providing 175 to 200 megawatts of electricity and 125 to 150 million cubic meters (about 30 to 40 billion gallons) of pure water a year. It was emphasized that the project's experience would be freely placed at the disposal of all other countries.

Prime Minister Eshkol also visited France from June 28 to July 10, where he met with President Charles de Gaulle, Premier George Pompidou, Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville, and Defense Minister Pierre Messmer. In the course of the talks, de Gaulle repeatedly referred to Israel as "our friend and ally" and Israeli proposals for cooperation with France in oceanography and arid-zone research met with sympathetic attention. Official spokesmen described them as having established complete harmony of views.

Summing up both visits, Eshkol reported to the Knesset on July 10 that it had "been shown that Israel is not alone in her struggle." On July 15, he qualified his previous remark: "Israel must enhance her deterrent strength, while making a constant effort to persuade friendly nations to support her independence and integrity." On July 20, in his reply to the debate on his statement, he urged the four great powers to cooperate in consolidating peace and prosperity in the Middle East by opposing any change in frontiers except by agreement, stopping the arms race, and helping to raise the standard of living in the area.

In March Foreign Minister Golda Meir visited West European countries and declared herself satisfied with the results of her talks. On June 4, negotiations which had started in November 1962 were concluded in Brussels with the signing of a trade agreement (see p. 384) between Israel and the European Economic Community (EEC; Common Market). This was the second agreement between EEC and an outside country. While Israel would have preferred to be accepted as an associate member, the agreement was considered valuable as a first step, obligating EEC to take Israeli interests into account in its future policy. Speaking in Israel on October 8, Sicco Mansholt, vice-president of the EEC commission, regretted that the Community had "submitted to various pressures" and failed to grant Israel associate membership, which he regarded as "the only solution to Israel's relations with the Market."

### *West Germany*

Relations with Germany were mentioned in almost every foreign-policy statement by the premier and the foreign minister, and were repeatedly brought up for discussion in the Knesset by the opposition. On May 4, after a demand by Foreign Minister Meir that the German government "undertake without delay the measures necessary to stop the work of the German scientists in Egypt," the Knesset reiterated its resolution of March 20, 1963, demanding "urgent measures by the West German authorities to put an immediate end to this criminal activity." This demand was repeated by the prime minister in the Knesset on October 19. He also criticized West Germany's reluctance to establish diplomatic relations with Israel, for fear of Arab reactions, and called on the German government to prevent the statute of limitations on Nazi crimes from taking effect on May 8, 1965, the 20th anniversary of Germany's surrender. On November 18 Deputy Premier Abba Eban expressed "profound disappointment and indignation" at the West German government's intention to allow the statute of limitations on these crimes to come into force. (See p. 410)

In July Eshkol presented Israel's views concerning the Oder-Neisse line between Germany and Poland, when he said that "any demand for boundary changes in this sensitive area, in the heart of Europe, is liable to upset international stability and endanger the peace of the world," and that, therefore, the existing situation in the area, after the postwar exchange of population, "should be accepted as a permanent solution."

### *The Soviet Union*

Indications of a slight improvement in Soviet-Israeli relations were seen in the cultural-exchange agreement in July for reciprocal visits by Soviet and Israeli musicians during the year, and in the October agreement for the sale of Soviet property in Jerusalem. Two-thirds of the price was to be paid in the form of citrus exports, and Foreign Minister Golda Meir expressed the hope that the agreement would open a new chapter in trade and other relations

between the two countries. She noted that this was the first agreement signed by Israel in Jerusalem with any of the great powers.

### *Other Countries*

Relations with the developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Mediterranean area continued to expand. Israel's international-cooperation activities embraced 90 countries, including 40 countries of sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, more than any other nation except Britain and the United States.

Distinguished visitors during the year included Pope Paul VI, the king and queen of Belgium, the presidents of Togo and Dahomey, and the prime minister of Iceland.

### *Pope's Visit*

Pope Paul VI spent 12 hours on Israeli soil during his pilgrimage to the Christian sites in the Holy Land. In a message issued on the eve of his arrival, Prime Minister Eshkol referred to "the historic and unprecedented significance" of the occasion and declared that "the people of Israel will respect the Pope's wishes regarding the nature of his visit." Chief Rabbi Isaac Nissim issued a message of welcome to "the illustrious pilgrim" but declined to participate in the official welcome on the ground that, as the visit was of a religious nature, the Pope should have given the chief rabbi the opportunity to receive him.

In order to facilitate the Pope's journey to the holy places, a special frontier post was opened at Taanach, and he was welcomed at the nearby historic site of Meggido by President Zalman Shazar, accompanied by the prime minister, the Keneset speaker, and other dignitaries. Noting that he had come "from Jerusalem, our capital," President Shazar's welcoming address spoke of "the devastation of my people during the last generation" and "the fulfillment of prophecy by the ingathering of our people here from all the corners of the earth and the renewal of their independent life as in days of old."

In reply, the Pope declared: "Your Excellency knows, and God is Our witness, that We are not inspired during this visit by any other motives than purely spiritual ones. We come as a pilgrim; We come to venerate the Holy Places; We come to pray." He said that he included in his prayers "the sons of 'the people of the Covenant,' whose part in the religious history of mankind can never be forgotten."

After celebrating mass in the Grotto of the Annunciation, the Pope visited the holy places on the Sea of Galilee and then made his way to Jerusalem, where he was welcomed by the mayor, and to Mount Zion. Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, dean of the College of Cardinals, visited the Chamber of the Holocaust on Mount Zion, where he lit six candles in memory of the six million killed, expressing on behalf of the Pope "our sympathy and participation in the anguish and sorrow at the terrible destruction wrought on the people of Israel."

In a farewell address at the Mandelbaum Gate, the crossing point into Jordan territory, President Shazar recalled that Micah, who prophesied that men would "beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks," also stated, "For all the peoples walk each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever."

In his reply, Pope Paul referred to the "suspicions and even accusations" that had been leveled at the name of Pope Pius XII and declared: "We are happy to have the opportunity to state on this day and in this place that there is nothing more unjust than this slight against such a venerated memory." In conclusion, he said: "It is with satisfaction that We are happy to think that our Catholic children living in this country will continue to enjoy the rights and liberty to which all men are today considered to be entitled."

It was noted that the Pope did not expressly mention either the Jewish people or the State of Israel during his pilgrimage.

### DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

The population at the end of 1964 was 2,531,200: 2,244,700 Jews and 286,500 others, mainly Arabs and Druses, compared with 2,430,100 Jews and 274,620 others at the end of 1963.

Immigration during the four years 1961 to 1964 was about 250,000, the largest continuous influx since 1948-1951. The Jewish Agency said that unless Soviet Jews were permitted to emigrate, immigration from "countries of distress" would probably be completed in another four or five years, and immigration from the prosperous countries of the Americas and Western Europe, which totaled 22,000 during the previous four-year period, would be of vital importance for Israel.

The cabinet proclaimed 1964 as Aliyah Bet (clandestine immigration) Year, to mark the 30th anniversary of the first arrival of "illegal" immigrant ships in Mandatory Palestine. Prime Minister Eshkol recalled that between 1934 and 1948 some 100,000 such immigrants had come to Palestine in 96 blockade-running ships, 90 of which were brought in by the Haganah, as well as by land and air.

Major General Isaac Rabin succeeded Major General Tsevi Tsur as chief of staff of the Israel Defense Forces in January; Phinehas Koppel succeeded Joseph Nahmias as police inspector general in June, and Arielev Levavi succeeded Hayyim Yahil as director general of the foreign ministry in October.

In January the Israeli Press Council adopted a code of press ethics, banning deception, pressure, or threats to obtain the news; defamation or incitement against individuals, and unfounded accusations of a national, communal, religious, or racial character.

In a communiqué issued on March 15, after a joint session with the Zionist executive, the government of Israel pledged "full moral, public, and economic support" for the World Zionist Organization's educational and cultural activities. The members of the executive "expressed the determination of the Zionist movement, while continuing to discharge its obligations in the spheres of im-

migration, absorption and settlement on the land . . . , to concentrate, intensify and invigorate its efforts in the Diaspora in the education of children and youth" in order "to strengthen the attachment of Jewish communities in the Diaspora to the State of Israel," to intensify the consciousness of Jewish unity, to impart to the younger generation "the values of Judaism and its spiritual heritage," and to "awaken and cultivate the mental readiness and active desire to settle in Israel." The prime minister expressed the government's concurrence with this program, and it was agreed that the effort to "enhance the Zionist spirit in Jewish life" was a matter of joint concern for the State of Israel and the World Zionist Organization.

At the meeting of the Zionist General Council which started on the following day, the "problem of Jewish survival" and the protection of Diaspora Jewry against disintegration through assimilation were placed in the forefront of the movement's tasks by ZOA President Nahum Goldmann and by Moshe Sharett, chairman of the executive. These were also the central themes of Goldmann's opening address to the 26th Zionist Congress in Jerusalem in December.

In May the Supreme Court, sitting as a court of criminal appeal, gave its reasons for quashing a five-year sentence imposed by the Tel-Aviv district court on Hirsch Barenblat for collaborating with the Nazis as chief of the Jewish police under the Judenrat in the town of Bendin. Justice Isaac Olshan said that the question of the attitude the Jewish leadership should have adopted under the Nazis must be left to history. Justice Moses Landau declared that it would be sheer sanctimoniousness to criticize the "little men who did not rise to superhuman heights of morality while being persecuted by the Nazi regime."

On July 9, the late Vladimir (Ze'ev) Jabotinsky, founder of the Zionist Revisionist movement, was reinterred on Mount Herzl, Jerusalem, in the presence of President Shazar and other national leaders. Speaker Kaddish Luz delivered a eulogy in the Knesset. In his will Jabotinsky had requested that his remains "may not be transferred to Palestine unless by order of that country's eventual Jewish government." The cabinet decided in March "to assist the family to transfer the remains of the deceased to Israel by issuing an instruction that would comply with the request of the deceased made in his will."

The new town of Carmiel, the center of the Galilee development plan initiated by Prime Minister Eshkol, was inaugurated in October; it was planned for a population of 50,000. Border settlements established during the year were Mevo Modi'in, at the birthplace of the Maccabees, near the Jordanian border, in November, and Biranit, near the frontier with Lebanon, in December. Both were initially set up as outposts manned by Nahal, the defense forces' agricultural pioneering corps.

In November the Supreme Court rejected the application of the Arab nationalist El Ard group for registration under the Ottoman law of societies on the ground that its declared program "expressly and totally negates the existence of the State of Israel in general and the existence of the state in its

present form in particular. . . . It is the elementary right of every state to defend its liberty and its very existence against enemies from without and their supporters from within."

### *The "Alignment" and the "Affair"*

After Isaac Ben-Aharon of Ahdut Ha-'avodah (Unity of Labor) proposed a federation of Israel's labor parties, Prime Minister Eshkol opened negotiations with Mapam (United Workers' party) for their inclusion in the cabinet as a preliminary to discussions on labor unity. No agreement was reached, however, and Ahdut Ha-'avodah agreed to open talks for an "alignment" (*ma'arakh*) with Mapai alone.

Negotiating committees were headed by Premier Eshkol and Israel Galili, secretary-general of Ahdut Ha-'avodah. The main lines of an agreement began to emerge in May: the two parties would submit joint lists of candidates for the next elections to the Knesset, the municipalities, and the Histadrut (General Federation of Labor), with joint platforms agreed upon in advance. Their representatives in the legislature and in the local administrations would constitute united groups governed by majority discipline. There were three main difficulties:

1. Ahdut Ha-'avodah demanded a solution to the problem of Mapai's Min Ha-yesod group, supporters of Phinehas Lavon, the former Histadrut secretary-general and principal figure in the "affair" of 1954 (AJYB, 1962 [Vol. 63], p. 401). The group threatened to leave the party unless Mapai annulled its 1961 decision to remove Lavon from his Histadrut position. After consulting several Mapai leaders, Eshkol sent a personal letter to leaders of Min Ha-yesod on May 2, declaring that the 1961 decision was a matter of history and no longer had any significance. Ben-Gurion criticized Eshkol for taking this step without the approval of the party's institutions. The Mapai secretariat took note of Eshkol's letter, without formally approving it. A further letter from Eshkol to Ben-Gurion, stating that he did not regret his part in the deposition of Lavon, aroused Min Ha-yesod's anger, and they continued to press for full reinstatement.

2. Ahdut Ha-'avodah insisted on its right to maintain a separate faction in the Histadrut, while agreeing to a joint slate in the elections and regular consultations with Mapai's representatives in the federation's governing bodies. Ben-Gurion objected to this as "a deception of the electors."

3. Ahdut Ha-'avodah insisted that for the duration of the agreement Mapai should not attempt to replace proportional representation by the constituency system of elections. Ben-Gurion argued that electoral reform was vitally important and that only the party convention was entitled to abrogate an article of the party's program.

After returning from the United States and France in July, Eshkol reached an agreement with Galili, which he reported to the Mapai secretariat. A section of Ahdut Ha-'avodah, led by its veteran ideologist, Isaac Tabenkin, objected to any bipartite agreement without Mapam, while Ben-Gurion continued to press his objections.

While the discussions on the "alignment" were in progress, further developments threatened Mapai unity. On October 22 Ben-Gurion submitted a dossier to Minister of Justice Dov Joseph and Attorney General Moses Ben-Ze'ev. The dossier contained an account of the Lavon Affair, prepared on Ben-Gurion's instructions before his resignation by Haggai Eshed, a Tel-Aviv journalist, and an analysis by two lawyers of the proceedings and conclusions of the cabinet's Committee of Seven, which had cleared Lavon in 1960. Ben-Gurion demanded a judicial inquiry into the work of the Committee of Seven, while the two lawyers recommended a comprehensive inquiry into the 1954 affair.

On November 6 Minister of Agriculture Moses Dayyan, the leading figure in the pro-Ben-Gurion Mapai group, resigned from the cabinet because of "the absence of the identity of views which a minister must have with the prime minister."

On November 15 the Mapai central council approved the general lines of the Eshkol-Galili agreement on the "alignment," Ben-Gurion and Dov Joseph abstaining. Ben-Gurion announced his resignation from the central council, which, he said, was not entitled to pigeonhole electoral reform, and declared that he would appeal to the party convention.

On November 7 Min Ha-yesod announced its decision to leave Mapai and form an independent political movement.

On December 6 Dov Joseph proposed to the cabinet that a comprehensive official inquiry should be instituted into the 1954 affair. Both he and the attorney general severely criticized the procedure and conclusions of the 1960 Committee of Seven, though they rejected Ben-Gurion's demand for an inquiry into its work. Eshkol strongly opposed the proposal and demanded that Mapai should leave its representatives in the cabinet free to decide the issue according to their own consciences.

At a meeting of the central council on December 14, there was strong minority support for an inquiry, and Ben-Gurion announced that if this was accepted he would not insist on his demand for an inquiry into the Committee of Seven. Next day, before the central committee could resume its session and take a vote, Eshkol submitted his resignation, which involved that of the cabinet as a whole, declaring that the question was a matter of state, and ministers should have unfettered discretion to decide it without party interference. This step won widespread parliamentary and public support, and the Mapai central committee unanimously called on Eshkol to form a new cabinet, rejecting the proposal for an inquiry by a two-thirds majority.

On December 23 Eshkol submitted his new cabinet to the Knesset, unchanged except for the appointment of Akiva Govrin, minister without portfolio, as minister of tourism, and received a vote of confidence by 59 votes to 36. To signify their approval of Eshkol's rejection of the inquiry proposal the nine Mapam members abstained instead of, as usual, voting against the government.

Ben-Gurion announced his intention to publish his dossier on the Lavon

Affair and to appeal against the "alignment" agreement at the Mapai convention in February 1965.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

The dynamic development of Israel's economy continued in 1964,<sup>1</sup> but there was a large increase in the negative balance of trade. This was partly due to a considerable growth in personal consumption, which necessitated higher imports and diverted domestic resources from exports. At the same time government measures to stabilize prices resulted in heavy pressure on the available supplies, which led to a further increase in imports.

The gross national product totaled I£9.3 billion, 15.3 per cent more than in 1963 (11 per cent more in terms of 1963 prices), and the national income was I£7.2 billion—an increase of 15 per cent. National income per capita was I£2,800 (\$933), 10.3 per cent more than in the previous year.

Industrial output reached I£6 billion, an increase of 14 per cent, while agricultural output rose 10 per cent. Investment in the economy totaled I£2.69 billion, of which residential building accounted for I£802 million, ships and planes I£176 million, industry I£451 million, transport and communications I£411 million, trade and services I£478 million, and agriculture I£160 million.

Exports totaled \$649 million. Exports of goods, at \$350 million, were 4.2 per cent higher than in 1963, industrial exports rising 15.5 per cent, while agricultural exports dropped 23 per cent, because of a fall in international citrus prices and frost damage to the citrus crop. Invisible exports, such as tourism, rose 17.5 per cent.

There was a rise of 18 per cent in imports, owing to increased prices, a tendency to increase inventories, considerable purchases of ships and planes, and higher domestic consumption.

Capital imports totaled \$565 million, an increase of 8 per cent. Of this, unilateral receipts amounted to \$335 million, while long- and medium-term movements of capital (including \$99 million in State of Israel bonds, 24 per cent more than in 1963) totaled \$251 million, compared with \$170 million in the previous year.

Average unemployment was 15 per cent less than in the previous year, and there was an unsatisfied demand for labor. The consumers' price index rose 5 per cent, somewhat less than in each of the two previous years. As a result of higher land-betterment taxes, the rise in real-estate prices slowed down considerably.

Average wages per employee rose 14 per cent—equivalent to a rise of 9 to 10 per cent in real terms. In view of the rise in the national output, Histadrut decided at the beginning of the year to press for a general wage increase of 3 per cent, but rises, especially in the services, were considerably larger.

A beginning was made toward implementation of the report of a com-

<sup>1</sup> Figures taken from *Bank of Israel Report, 1964*.

mittee, headed by David Horowitz, Governor of the Bank of Israel, which had been appointed by the government in November 1961 to examine the wage and salary system in the public services. It recommended a general reclassification in state and local administration, the Jewish Agency, and other public bodies on the basis of a comprehensive job analysis. The coordinating committee of professional men's organizations, however, demanded exemption from this process, and agreements were reached with most of the unions in this sector, increases ranging from 12 to 14 per cent. There were a number of unofficial strikes during the year by civil-service groups dissatisfied with the pace and results of reclassification, but in the latter part of the year joint labor-management committees were continuing with the work.

Important industrial development during the year included the completion of the national water carrier, bringing the waters from Lake Kinneret to the Negev; completion of the Kishon port near Haifa, the near-completion of the one at Eilat, and considerable progress in building the new port at Ashdod; investment of \$50 million in the merchant fleet; initiation of the petrochemical complex at Haifa; expansion of the Haifa refineries, and completion of additional installations at the Dead Sea Potash works, trebling their output capacity.

Residential building, a considerable part of which was for new immigrants, increased by 13 per cent.

The 1965-66 budget, presented in December 1964, was I£4 billion, 8 per cent more than for 1964-65. Finance Minister Sappir said that this was a small increase, in view of the rise in the population and the higher price level; the budget for 1964-65 had been 27 per cent higher than the previous year's. There was no increase in general tax rates, but the purchase tax was to be extended to certain services. Income-tax estimates were up 26 per cent, while indirect taxes furnished 44.7 per cent of the revenue, compared with 47 per cent in 1963-64. I£90 million from tax revenue was to be allocated to the development budget.

I£865 million was budgeted for development, including I£217 million for immigrant housing. Government building was to be cut down to the utmost, except for hospitals, schools, etc.

In the ordinary budget, education, with an increase of I£66 million, took second place, next to defense. Subsidies were to be reduced from I£210 million to I£160 million.

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE, AND CULTURE

### *Schools*

Over 700,000 pupils were enrolled in Israeli educational institutions at the beginning of the 1964-65 school year. These included some 90,000 in post-primary schools and almost 20,000 in institutions of higher education.

About 70 per cent of pupils who had completed elementary school were continuing their studies—about half in academic institutions and the rest in

vocational schools. Children of immigrants from Asia and Africa made up about 25 per cent of pupils receiving post-primary education, 53 per cent of them in academic schools.

Measures to improve educational standards, especially among children of new immigrants, included: free kindergartens for 21,000 more three- and four-year-old children; introduction of the "long school day" in another thousand classes, bringing the total up to 3,500, and special supplementary lessons for backward pupils; separate grouping of children in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades (ages 11 to 13) for the study of Hebrew, mathematics, and English, in order to enable each to progress at the rate best suited to his abilities; exemption of a third of high-school pupils from tuition fees, with payments for the rest scaled to parents' incomes; establishment of 24 post-primary schools, with the aid of donors from abroad (15 of which were to be comprehensive schools), and a 50-per-cent increase in the number of students in teachers' training colleges within the next three years.

### *Higher Education*

Israel held fifth place among all nations for the proportion of university-level students to population—750 out of every 100,000—according to a statement in July by Zalman Aranne, minister of education and culture. He emphasized, however, that still more students were needed at the institutes of higher learning, and the government was constantly increasing its subventions to the latter. Subventions totaled some I£40 million in the fiscal year under review, or about half the budgets of these institutions. University leaders, nevertheless, declared that expansion was limited by lack of money and asked further government aid. Joel (Giulio) Racah, rector of the Hebrew University, said the faculty of natural sciences was unable to accept all qualified applicants; the ratio admitted ranged from one out of two to one out of three in the various departments, and in medicine there were over 400 applications for some sixty places in the first year.

Jacob Dori, president of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, said that besides the 880 freshmen admitted, 250 candidates had passed the entrance examinations, but could not be accepted for budgetary reasons.

The Hebrew University opened the academic year with 10,000 students, Technion with 3,600, Tel-Aviv University with 3,300, Haifa University College (opened in 1963 under the academic supervision of the Hebrew University) with 900, and Bar-Ilan University with 1,500 students.

The Artur Rubinstein chair of musicology was inaugurated and a new school of dentistry was opened at the Hebrew University; Technion opened the Karl P. Compton and Canada buildings for its chemistry department; the Weizmann Institute of Science dedicated the Institute of Organic Chemistry and the Charles Clore International House for Students and awarded its first degrees to graduates of the Feinberg graduate school; a new campus was inaugurated at Tel-Aviv University, and Haifa University College got new premises.

## Archeology

Important discoveries were made at Masada, site of Herod's desert fortress, where the Jewish Zealots made their last stand against the Romans in 73 CE. The excavations, lasting over six months, were headed by Professor Yigael Yadin of the Hebrew University, with the aid of the Israeli defense forces and a thousand volunteers from Israel and abroad. Buildings uncovered included the palace bath house, the oldest known synagogue, and the rooms in the casement wall occupied by the rebels. Finds included 2,200 coins, 200 ostraca, a liturgical scroll identical in style with those found at Qumran, and scroll fragments containing passages from Genesis, Leviticus, and Psalms, and the Hebrew original of Ecclesiasticus.

The second season, during which the excavations were to be completed and the remains reconstructed, began at the end of November. The reconstruction was to be financed with contributions from the Israeli public.

Other interesting archeological finds during the year included a fifth-century mosaic floor at Beth-shean; town fortifications, a pottery kiln, and other remains ranging from the Hyksos age to the 18th century, at Jaffa; Canaanite, Israelite, and Hellenistic remains at Tel Zeror, near Hadera; Philistine and late Bronze Age statuettes and pottery at Tel Zippor, midway between Lachish and Ashkelon; inscribed pottery fragments from the period of the First Temple at Tel Arad.

## Cultural Activities

The annual Israel prizes for cultural distinction were awarded to Professor Ze'ev Ben-Hayyim, head of the Institute of Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University and vice-president of the Hebrew Language Academy, for his book *The Literary and Oral Tradition of Hebrew and Aramaic amongst the Samaritans*; Professor Moses Rachmilewitz, head of the department of internal medicine at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical School, for his life's work; Supreme Court Justice Professor Moses Silberg, for his book *Personal Status in Israel*, and Me'ir Margalit, of the Ohel Theater, one of the country's outstanding actors in comedy, for his life-long contribution as actor and director.

Outstanding features of the fourth Israel Festival of Music and Drama were the first performance of *Abraham and Isaac*, a cantata specially written by Igor Stravinsky and conducted by the composer at the ancient Roman amphitheater at Cæsarea; the presentation of the complete cycle of Beethoven's symphonies, under the baton of Joseph Krips; the premiere of Odeon Partos's *Violin Concerto*, with Yehudi Menuhin and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra; chamber music by an ensemble led by Hephzibah and Yehudi Menuhin and by the Juilliard Quartet of New York, and performances by the Bristol Old Vic, the Cameri, and the Inbal Yemenite Dance Theater.

On June 3 the Israeli soccer team won the Asian Soccer Cup, having defeated India, Korea, and Hong Kong in the finals, which were held in Israel.

## RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

On March 17, more than four years after the date first scheduled for the election, Israel's two chief rabbis and a chief rabbinate council of five Sephardim and five Ashkenazim were duly elected. Isaac Nissim was reelected Sephardi chief rabbi, receiving 84 votes to 34 for Obadiah Hadaya, and Isser Judah Unterman was elected to succeed the late Isaac Halevy Herzog, who died in 1949, by 60 votes to 57 for Solomon Goren, chief chaplain to the Israeli defense forces.

In view of agitation against Christian missionary activities among Jewish children, Prime Minister Eshkol on March 1 submitted to the cabinet the results of a survey prepared at his request. Eleven Christian schools in Israel were attended by 900 Jewish children, according to the survey, but only three of the schools, attended by 95 of the children, preached Christianity. According to Zerah Warhaftig, minister of religious affairs, however, there were 1,380 children at 29 Christian schools, including kindergartens.

Since 1950, 200 Jews had adopted Christianity or Islam, but only 11 children had been converted to Christianity. In the same period, 407 Moslems, Druses, and Circassians had been converted to Judaism.

On March 26 the Jerusalem chief magistrate fined 104 young men, mostly yeshivah students, sums ranging from I£ 25 to I£ 100, with the alternative of imprisonment for 3 to 15 days, for criminal trespass in the course of anti-mission demonstrations in September 1963 in the courtyard of the St. Joseph Mission. Ninety-four refused to pay their fines and served their sentences.

The *S.S. Shalom*, flagship of Zim, completed her maiden voyage on March 24, with an exclusively kosher cuisine instead of the dual cuisine—one kosher and one “international”—planned by the company. This was the outcome of a prolonged campaign by the rabbinate and the religious parties against the serving of non-kosher food on the ship to attract passengers on luxury cruises. The rabbinate had refused to grant the ship a certificate of *kashrut* if two kitchens were installed, and the National Religious party had threatened a cabinet crisis.

There was a lengthy controversy over the rabbinical supervision of the large regional Marbek abattoir at Kiryat Malachi, established by Deromit, a co-operative of the agricultural settlements in the south. The rabbinate at first refused to license the abattoir on the ground that *kashrut* must be supervised by local rabbis in the locality where the meat was to be consumed, and then imposed conditions which the management said it could not meet. When the Supreme Court granted the company's application for an order *nisi* against the chief rabbinate, the latter failed to put in an appearance, on the ground that this was purely a matter of religious law. The court ruled on August 11 that it alone could decide whether this was indeed the case and adjourned to enable the chief rabbinate to be represented. Before the hearing could be resumed, Chief Rabbi Unterman reached an agreement with Deromit, which withdrew its application.

A man deemed to be a *kohen* (descendant of a priestly family), who had married a divorcee without rabbinical sanction, applied to the Tel-Aviv rabbinical court for a declaratory judgment recognizing the marriage. The court, while refusing the application, ruled on June 25 that neither of the two could marry anyone else without first obtaining a divorce from each other. It was stated that the status of the couple lay "at some point between the two concepts" of married and single.

On October 30 the Supreme Court overruled a decision of the Rabbinical High Court, which had ordered a woman to accept a divorce from her husband on the ground that there were doubts whether she was Jewish. The Supreme Court held that if she was not Jewish, the Rabbinical Court had no jurisdiction, while if she was, there were no grounds for its decision.

On August 31 the Council of the Chief Rabbinate decided, after the intervention of the president, the prime minister, the mayor of Jerusalem, and the Keneset, to delete the words "Bene Israel" from the directives issued in February 1962 concerning inquiries to be made in case of marriages between members of the Bene Israel community from India and other Jews. The words were replaced by the formula "anyone concerning the ritual purity of whose family status any suspicion or doubt arises."

The controversy had broken out again (AJYB, 1963 [Vol. 64], p. 391) when several Bene Israel families staged a sit-down strike for the second time, in August, outside the chief rabbinate and Jewish Agency offices in Jerusalem. They were supported in their demand for the withdrawal of the directives by a number of political parties. On August 17, after a statement by the prime minister and a debate in the Keneset, the House passed a resolution appealing to the rabbinate to "take public opinion into account and find a way of dispelling the causes of the sense of unfairness felt by the Bene Israel."

There were five Reform congregations in Israel, totaling 500 families, in addition to the Jerusalem chapel of the Hebrew Union College. They were organized by the Circles for Progressive Judaism and affiliated to the World Union for Progressive Judaism. The largest, the Har-el synagogue in Jerusalem, was founded in 1957; the others were in Kefar Shemaryahu (near Tel-Aviv), Upper Nazareth, Haifa, and Ramat Gan. There were also Conservative congregations in Jerusalem and Haifa.

The Circles published the first Reform prayer book which was entirely in Hebrew. Each synagogue had its rabbi, but these were not recognized by the ministry of religious affairs and could not perform legally valid wedding ceremonies. Some of the congregations met with difficulties in obtaining accommodation for their services.

#### PERSONALIA

Leo Kadman, president of the Israeli Numismatic Society and participant in many Zionist congresses, died in Jerusalem in January, at the age of 68. Aaron Zisling, one of the 37 signers of the Proclamation of Independence in 1948 and minister of agriculture in the provisional government, died in Afula on

January 16, at the age of 63. Joseph Shapiro, chairman of ORT, a governor of the Weizmann Institute of Science and a founder of the Tel-Aviv Art Museum, died in Tel-Aviv on January 21, at the age of 68. Rabbi Abraham Mordecai Weingarten, former chairman of the Jewish Community Council of the Old City of Jerusalem, died on January 26, at the age of 68. Isaac Yaari, member of the editorial staff of *Davar*, died in Tel-Aviv on February 2, at the age of 48. Leyb Glantz, world renowned cantor and liturgical music composer, died in Tel-Aviv in February, at the age of 59. Genia Twersky, social-welfare pioneer, twice member of the Knesset and member of the Histadrut executive, died in Jerusalem in April, at the age of 62. Ze'ev Sheffer, former Mapai deputy speaker in the Knesset and one-time Haganah chief of staff, died at Kibbutz Ayyelet Ha-shahar on April 10, at the age of 73. Meir Grossman, prominent Zionist leader and writer and co-founder of JTA, died in Tel-Aviv on June 27, at the age of 76. Joel Brand, wartime leader of Hungarian Jewry, died in Bad Kissingen, West Germany on July 13, at the age of 58. Abba Gordin, prominent Yiddish writer and poet, died in Tel-Aviv in August, at the age of 77. Abraham Derori, Herut member of the Knesset, died in Tel-Aviv in August, at the age of 45. Hayyim Brand, former leader of Ahdut Ha-avodah in the United States, died in Tel-Aviv in October. Menahem Kraicer, since 1951 director of the Israeli office of UHS, died in Tel-Aviv in November, at the age of 62.

MISHA LOUVISH

## Lebanon

**L**EBANON is the only Arab country which is a democracy, in the Western sense, and where Christians constitute the majority of the population. According to the last official census (1958), 53 per cent of the total population of 1,750,000 were Christians of different denominations and 47 per cent Moslems and Druses. When Lebanon won independence from France in 1943, an unwritten national covenant was concluded between the Christians and Moslem communities to guard the country against either domination by other Arab states or commitments to the West. The agreement also provided that the president must be a Christian, while the prime minister and the speaker must be Moslems.

On August 18 Charles Helou, minister of education in the cabinet of his predecessor, General Fuad Chehab, was elected President by a vote of 92 to 7. For the first time since Lebanon became independent, the election was held in an atmosphere of tranquillity and the inauguration ceremonies were in sharp contrast to those of 1958, held in the midst of civil unrest. (AJYB, [Vol. 60], pp. 249-250). President Helou is known to pursue a policy of co-operation with the Arab states within the framework of the Arab League but,

like his predecessors, he is determined to steer clear of inter-Arab unity or federation.

## LEBANON AND ISRAEL

Because former President Chehab wished to preserve this equilibrium, he declined to participate in the January 1964 Cairo summit conference called to discuss means of preventing Israel's use of the Jordan River waters to irrigate the Negev (p. 299).

Lebanon had hoped that the projected pumping station would be placed on the Banyas River in Syria. But, on the basis of technical reports submitted by Arab League Secretary General Abdel Khalek Hassouna at the Alexandria meeting in September, plans were approved to start construction on the Hasbani River in Lebanon. The Lebanese parliament reluctantly agreed to this plan and to a joint Arab defense agreement to ward off a possible Israeli attack on the Hasbani water works once construction was begun. In the event of an Israeli attack, Lebanon was to permit troops of other Arab states to enter her territory. These troops, Lebanese Foreign Minister Philip Takla stated in January 1965, would be confined to specific areas, have limited missions, and leave the country as soon as the Lebanese government considered their task to be completed.

## JEWISH COMMUNITY

### *Population*

The first settlement of Jews in Lebanon dates back to Biblical times. There are records of cultural and trade relations between King Hiram of Tyre and King Solomon. One of the prophets is buried on Lebanese territory in Sujod, which has become a place of pilgrimage. Later, Jewish communities of merchants and artisans flourished in Deir-el-Kamar, Saïda and Tripoli, and Beirut, where ancient synagogues bear witness to an active Jewish life.

At present the Jewish community of Lebanon is variously estimated to be between 5,000 to 6,000 persons, or approximately 1,000 to 1,200 families. There had been 3,500 to 4,000 Jews at the end of the 1920's. The influx of Jews from Syria and Iraq after the Arab-Israeli war increased the number to nearly 10,000. Later some of the wealthier families emigrated to Europe, mainly to Milan and Geneva, and to Latin America, where they settled in Mexico City, Buenos Aires, and São Paulo.

Most Lebanese Jews are Sephardim, originating from various countries on the Mediterranean coast, mainly Turkey and Syria. All but about 100 are Lebanese nationals. They are concentrated chiefly in the Wadi-Abu-Jamil district of Beirut, but there are some families in Saïda in the south and in Tripoli in the north. In the main, the community is composed of middle-class families, of whom approximately 70 per cent are engaged in business and commerce and have made important contributions to Lebanon's economy. About 25 per cent are artisans and five per cent are in the liberal professions.

## Community Organization

The Beirut community was reorganized at the turn of the century. Since then, its affairs have been administered by a Community Council of twelve. Members in good standing constitute the General Assembly, which elects the Community Council, the official representative body of the Jews. Although Council elections are held biennially, the roster of community leaders, including the president, Joseph Attie, has not changed in the last 30 years.

Because of the delicate relationship between Lebanon's two principal religious groups and their own sensitive position, the Jews have refrained from active participation in the country's political life. They have restricted themselves to the solution of their own problems and the preservation of their civil rights, as provided in the constitution for all religious minorities.

The Beirut community has a number of active institutions, housed in a modern community center and supervised by committees which are responsible to the Community Council. These include the *Bikkur Holim* ("Visiting the Sick"), the Talmud Torah, and the synagogue committee, as well as others dealing with *shehitah* and burials.

## Religious Activities

There are three large synagogues and 12 smaller houses of worship and study in Beirut. Two rabbis, four *shohatim* and three *mohalim* attend to the community's religious needs.

The history of Lebanon's chief rabbinate goes back to the period when Beirut was an autonomous *vilayet* (province) of the Ottoman empire, and its chief rabbi was appointed by and responsible to the chief rabbi of Turkey. When Greater Lebanon was created under the French mandate, the chief rabbi's autonomy was extended. Traditionally he has been the head of the Jewish community, the presiding judge of the Beth Din, and the community's representative in all official business with the government.

Chief Rabbi M. Lichtman retired in 1960. The post is still vacant. The community has turned to the Rabbinical Assembly of America for recommendations, because it is felt that the appointment of an American rabbi would enhance the status of the office.

## Jewish Education

Beirut, the seat of the Lebanese, American, and French universities, is a prominent center of higher learning in the Middle East. Stimulated by the atmosphere of scholarship, the Jewish community, too, stressed schooling for its youth. Its excellent facilities provide an education from kindergarten through lower secondary school.

The largest day school was founded by the Alliance Israélite Universelle (AIU) in 1866. Until 1918 it was the only institution, providing a combined Jewish and secular education for 1,200 children. The present building was erected in 1927 adjacent to the synagogue and, together with it, forms

the community center. However, AIU could offer few scholarships and many impoverished children had to attend missionary schools.

At the end of World War I the community made a serious attempt to offer free education to the indigent. In 1919 a group of Orthodox Jews created a Talmud Torah to give a few orphaned children religious training. Financial assistance was provided by the community and, throughout the years, instruction in Arabic and French and all other general courses were added to the curriculum. Later the Talmud Torah admitted tuition-paying children and, in 1927, with funds donated by the Tarrab family, the Selim Tarrab Talmud Torah was built. Its present enrolment is 250. The school's curriculum differs from that of the AIU school only in its greater emphasis on Hebrew and religious studies. It has official recognition and receives an annual government subsidy of £L1,000 (\$300).

The community also has a smaller religious school run by Otzar Ha-torah, with 80 children from kindergarten to the age of eleven. Its curriculum is the same as that of the other schools, but concentrates even more on religious training.

After graduation, students who wish to continue their education enroll in the various Catholic and Protestant secondary schools or in the high schools maintained by the French embassy and the American University. Some complete their studies at the French and American universities.

A vocational training center is planned for youths who do not go beyond the community schools. Since only few Jews become artisans or skilled tradesmen, its enrolment is expected to be low.

### *Youth Programs*

Trained teachers conduct physical-education courses for the pupils of the AIU and community schools on the well-equipped athletic field adjoining the Talmud Torah. The Commission de la jeunesse (Youth Commission) offers three sports classes weekly for 175 boys and 175 girls between the ages of 12 to 17; two days are set aside for college and university students and other older youths. Sports festivals are arranged twice a year. The facilities are also used by the 130 members of the Jewish scout movement.

Scouting is encouraged among Jewish children. Three summer camps, each lasting several weeks, are run for boys and girls between the ages of eight and fifteen. The costs are shared jointly by the participants, a private donor, and the community's Youth Commission.

Since 1963 *Oneg Shabbat* sessions have been held every Saturday morning for the upper-class students in AIU and more advanced non-communal schools. At these well-attended meetings, portions of the Bible are read in Hebrew and French and discussed by qualified persons. Group singing and refreshments add a lighter note to the occasion.

Cultural and other activities are offered in the recreation hall of the community school. The 200 members of the Foyer de jeunesse (youth group) and the 225 younger boys and girls of the Foyer pour petits (children's group) have active and varied programs, including games, lectures, and dancing.

## *Health and Welfare*

*Bikkur Holim*, the health organization, cares for some 350 indigent patients, most of them chronically ill. It maintains a dispensary, and those requiring bed care are placed in Lebanese hospitals. Hospitalization costs for needy non-citizens are paid by *Bikkur Holim*, while Lebanese nationals receive state assistance.

A child-welfare program provides quarterly medical examination for all children in the community schools; financial assistance to children of indigent parents from infancy until they become wage earners; special after-school classroom facilities where children from overcrowded homes can do their homework, and special instruction for retarded children.

## *Finances*

The community's primary source of income is a compulsory annual tax, the *arikha*, imposed on every member according to his ability to pay. It is augmented by fees for weddings and other functions and by special donations made to the main synagogues. Roughly 35 per cent of the total funds expended are income from the *waqfs*—trusts or settlements of communal property. The capital and income from such property are limited by law and by the deed of trust to exclusive use for communal and religious purposes.

The first *waqf* was established in 1922. The only property held by the Beirut community earlier had been the land on which the community center was built. However, this property, by its very nature, did not provide an income, and in 1930 other *waqfs* were established. Initially, funds for these *waqfs* came from three sources: payment for communal property which the Beirut municipality had expropriated for essential development purposes; a substantial increase in the *arikha*, and special donations from the well-to-do. The community set up a *waqfs* commission and a reconstruction fund to plan and manage buildings constructed for investment purposes or for communal use.

Among the fund's first achievements was the erection of a synagogue in Bhandoun, a large summer resort near Beirut. A second building, consisting of shops and offices, yielded an annual income of about 13 per cent of the capital invested. The proceeds covered the cost of a new community dining hall and kitchen, and equipment for the youth center. More recently, the sale of land, the acquisition of a commercial building, and the establishment of *waqfs* by prominent Beirut Jews, such as the Zilkha and Bashi families, made possible the addition of a floor to the Talmud Torah building for six new classrooms and a large assembly hall with film-projection equipment. In this way the community manages to enlarge its facilities and keep them in good repair and at the same time to have adequate funds for a full program designed to maintain its institutions and care for its needy members.