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UNITED •or NOT?

An interview with

MOSHE SHARETT

Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Government of Israel

and

AUBREY S. EBAN

Permanent Representative of the Government of Israel to the United Nations

Conducted by the United Nations Correspondents Association, Over

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ISRAEL OFFICE OF INFORMATION

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1. The Future of Israel: Address by Ambassador Eliahu Elath, delivered before the Economic Club of Detroit, Michigan, February 28, 1949.—Price 10 cents.

2. Israel: The Tasks Ahead: Text of Prime Minister David Ben- Gurion’s Statement before the Constituent Assembly of the State of Israel, delivered at Tel Aviv on March 8, 1949.— Price 10 cents.

3. Israel and the United Nations: Address by Dr. Chaim Weiz- mann, President of Israel, delivered at a dinner sponsored by the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science, New York, April 23, 1949.—Price 10 cents.

4. Israel: The Case for Admission to the United Nations: An address by Aubrey S. Eban, Representative of Israel, delivered before the Ad Hoc Political Committee of the United Nations, Lake Success, New York, May 5, 1949.—Price 25 cents.

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6. Israel and the Arab Refugees: A Survey of the Problem and its Solution, 1949.—Price 10 cents.

7. The Peace of Jerusalem: Texts of addresses by Moshe Sharett, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Aubrey S. Eban, Representa- tive of Israel, delivered before the United Nations General Assembly, 1949.—Price 25 cents.

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UNITED —or NOT?

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The questions were directed to Aubrey S. Eban, Permanent Representa- tive of Israel to the United Nations.

At the conclusion of the press conference, Israel’s Foreign Minister, Moshe Sharett, who was visiting South Africa, was interviewed over the Trans-Atlantic telephone in the first direct conversation between Lake Success, New York, and Johannesburg, South Africa.

Moderator of the program was John MacVane UNITED —or NOT?

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*Mr. MacVane: I’m afraid we haven’t time for ah^~r1u1ze questions.*

*I know a lot of you do want to ask them, but we just haven t time for them. Thank you, Ambassador Eban. I think that now we should hear what your Foreign Minister, Moshe Sharett, has to say about Israel’s position in the world. You will hear him in a transcribed interview• with Moshe Medzini, United Nations correspondent. You will first hear Mr. Medzini greet him in Hebrew. At the end you will hear Mr. Sharett return those Hebrew greetings both to Mr. Medzini and his wife. This is the first direct radio-telephone connection ever made between New York and South Africa, the country which Mr. Sharett is visiting. Now the words of Mr׳. Medzini.*

Mr. Medzini: . . . Mr. Sharett, the first question we want to ask you is this: What is the major objective of Israel’s foreign policy?

Mr. Sharett: Peace with our neighbors, friendly relations with all nations, advance of democracy, promotion of world peace, freedom of exit for all Jews wishing to settle in Israel. The foreign policy of Israel will always remain keyed to the United Nations.

Mr. Medzini: And what if the Arab States refuse to make peace with Israel?

Mr. Sharett: We shall simply go ahead with our work. We shall,

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of course, stick to the present armistice agreements in the letter a in the spirit. We

shall also quite naturally try to be ready for a contingency should the other side start making trouble again. I the main thing we shall do is to get along with our job of developi the country and settling the vast numbers of immigrants who k( pouring into Israel.

Mr. Medzini: Do you believe the United Nations can achieve peac

Mr. Sharett: All I can say is that if the United Nations does 1 achieve peace, I do not see who will. As long as the UN exists and nations belong to it, there is at least a hope of peace being saved.

Mr. Medzini: And what is your opinion of Mr. Trygve Lie’s pe efforts ?

Mr. Sharett: I believe that Trygve Lie deserves special credit his constructive initiative and persevering efforts. He is acting a true servant of world peace, who is charged with unique responsibi for its promotion.

Mr. Medzini: And now, Mr. Sharett, do you think the Un: Nations can solve the Jerusalem problem?

Mr. Sharett: Yes, if the United Nations would accept the substa of our new proposal. I sincerely believe that Israel’s new propo offer a genuine and realistic solution of the problem. They adequa safeguard the international interest in the Holy Places and, at same time, they fully preserve the basic national rights of the pc lation of Jerusalem and the fundamental position of the State of Isi

Mr. Medzini: Finally, do you expect to be with us at the 1 General Assembly?

*\** Mr. Sharett: Well, it is too early to say anything definite,

I do hope that I will find it possible to attend the next session of Assembly, and I am certainly anxious to do so because of the portance of the problems under discussion both to world peace an Israel.

Mr. Medzini, I would like to take this opportunity of conve my very cordial greetings to your colleagues, whose objective skillful reporting of United Nations affairs have made your I Room a veritable beacon of light for peace, justice and internati goodwill.

Mr. Medzini: (In Hebrew. Thanks, Mr. Sharett.)

*Mr. MacVane: This is John MacVane, moderator of this prog Mr. Sharett. Thank you, very much for taking part in it. This i: first direct radio-telephone circuit, I believe, between Lake Succe. between New York and Johannesburg, South Africa.*

Mr. Sharett: I am very happy to have been associated wil Thank you very much.

*Mr. MacVane: Thank you very much.*