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CASH IS NEEDED NOW!

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“There is no task more urgent than the Israel Bond Campaign today when we must do everything to assure the soundness and progress of the economic life of Israel.”

*Moshe Sharett*

THE MONTREAL STAR, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1955



### Frank Lowe's Diary

## 20-minute Sharett Speech Earns Israel Half Million

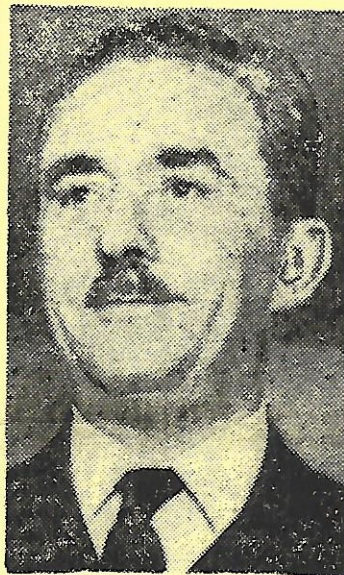
Moshe Sharett, Israel's Foreign Minister, made a 20-minute speech in Montreal last night—and his country by the end of it was wealthier by more than \$500,000.

It was a startling demonstration of hard-headed emotion. Nearly 3,000 members of Montreal's Jewish community crammed themselves into the Show Mart to eat dinner and hear Mr. Sharett. And to sign on the spot pledges for more than \$500,000 worth of Israel bonds.

Samuel Bronfman, president, Canada-Israel Securities Ltd., summed it up when he said: "This is the biggest crowd I have ever seen gathered together in Montreal for any worthy cause."

The attraction, the lure was dynamic Mr. Sharett. A short, solidly-built man whose way black hair is liberally streaked with gray, he has served as Israel's Foreign Minister ever since that state came into existence. His Montreal visit was typical of the pace he sets.

Here en route to Ottawa for talks with Prime Minister St. Laurent and Hon. Lester Pearson. Minister for External Affairs, he spent the day meeting leaders of the local Jewish community. And he was so rushed that the one way to get a personal interview with him was to sit behind him at the head table and toss in questions between courses.



MOSHE SHARETT

But despite these distractions and interruptions such as when bearded, 86-year-old Sol Litenetsky, 5307 Jeanne Mance street, approached to shake his hand and sign a bond pledge, Mr. Sharett never appeared confused.

#### Incisive Answers

Each question was answered incisively and clearly. He even dictated the punctuation to be used.

Mr. Sharett, a soldier in two world wars—once as an officer in the Turkish army and once as an officer in the British army—is still a fighter. His

embattled country, he admits, is living with continued violence and is actually on the edge of full-scale warfare.

This prospect that an Arab world burning with "a lust for revenge" might any day hit hard at Israel's borders does not appear to frighten him. And it obviously has not made him willing to listen to any sort of peace talk which involves territorial concessions by Israel.

Mr. Sharett, as the happy tumult of the fund raising party surged about him, was most emphatic on this point. He said bluntly that Sir Anthony Eden had "disqualified himself" as an Israel-Arab mediator by suggesting that Israel might make territorial concessions.

He asked: "Why do the Arabs want the Negev? If it is barren, as they say, why do they covet it? Haven't they got enough deserts? Why should they begrudge Israel its own little desert?"

And he answered his own questions by explaining that the disputed Negev is not actually barren, but is rich in minerals. To concede this, Israel would also either lose the port of Elath, its doorway to the Red Sea, or have it cut off from the rest of the country by a strip of Arab territory.

#### No Submission

Mr. Sharett said: "Israel will submit neither to an amputa-

tion nor a caesarian cut.

Mr. Sharett, as one of Israel's greatest voices and architects, is loath to leave his main subject—which is his country. But he did mix his interview about Israeli problems with a few personal bits of information.

One was the fact that as a boy for two years he lived in a completely Arab village. There, as a Jew, he took part unmolested in village life and learned the habits and language of the people who later were to become his fanatic enemies.

He said: "There I became familiar with the Arab mind and way of life. I learned that the Arabs are humans capable of true friendship and peaceful co-existence with their neighbors, provided their worst instincts are not stirred up by weakness and the possibility of an easy gain at their neighbor's expense."

Right now, those lessons are his theme. Israeli weakness and Arab strength, bolstered just recently by arms shipments from behind the Iron Curtain, are the two reasons why war in the Middle East is imminent, he believes.

The one way war can be averted, he contends, is to strengthen Israel. Give Israel arms equal in quality with those now going to Egypt. And let the United States guarantee Israel's borders with a

treaty, "a contractual obligation."

But, Mr. Sharett concluded, until that day arrives "we will remember our Bible which warns us to beware of false prophets who cry peace, peace, peace."