

... Did the change that has come over the relationship between Israel and World Jewry since June 1967 occur suddenly? ... The simultaneous outpouring of great energies, the fructification by many waters of what had seemed doomed to desolation... is not something newly created but rather a persistent force in the spirit of the Jewish people. The conditions of life in the diaspora doom it to concealment, veil it, hedge it around with so much relativity that the unaided eye can hardly detect it. But this secret of our enduring history remains vital and perseveres, though latent, until the moment that requires its revelation.

... It is incumbent upon us to see to it that this newly aroused relationship to Israel remains a constant force rather than a sporadic outburst... It is for us to insure the permanence of that marvelous awakening in Jews to which we have been witness...

DAVID BEN-GURION

First Prime Minister of the State of Israel

The Meaning of a Jewish State

(The following are excerpts from an address delivered by David Ben Gurion before the Anglo-American Inquiry Commission in which the future Prime Minister of Israel explained the meaning of a state that was then only a dream.)

1

A Jewish state means -- Jewish labor. A people acquires its own state not by conquest nor by purchase -- but by the labor of its own hands. That's what we are doing. In our country you will find Jews at work in all the vocations that were closed to them in other countries -- in fields and factories, in quarries, on the railroads, in the port, everywhere.

A Jewish state means -- a Jewish economy: agriculture, industry, fishing, seamanship. We assert that this is our country when we ourselves build it, revive it, create it anew with our efforts and our means. Building the Jewish state requires a continuous and ceaseless labor in field and factory, on sea and on land. You can see results in every corner of this country.

If you had come 40 years ago and heard us say in that we were going to revive the ancient Hebrew language and to modern spoken Hebrew, you would probably have thought we had lost our minds. Yet this seemingly "impossible" task has been achieved and Hebrew is now our official language, and all the Jews who immigrated here from Poland and from Persia, from Canada and from Yemen, from Russia and from Argentina, with the medley of tongues they spoke, now have a common language, and for the younger generation, the children and grandchildren, Hebrew is the mother-tongue.

Man does not live by bread alone. We are building here a new Jewish society, based on spiritual, cultural, scientific and artistic principles of the highest order. The scientific, spiritual and artistic work already being performed here in our community is not inferior to that of culturally superior communities throughout the world...

2

A Jewish State also means - Jewish security. If there is one thing above all others that Jews lack the world over, it is security. Even in the lands where Jews have security they do not have a sense of security. Why? Because their security does not depend on themselves; others see -- or do not see -- to it. The security of the Jew is not in his own hands. Here we want to see to our security with our own strength and our own means. That's what we've been doing ever since the modern settlement of the Land of Israel began, in the 1880's. But even as we organized and carried out the task of guarding, protecting and de-