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By C.L. SULZBERGERSpecial to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
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Prepared to Accept 'Millions' —Delays on Arab Refugees —Firm on Keeping Negeb

By C. L. SULZBERGER
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

TEL AVIV, Israel, July 21—The Provisional Government of Israel not only will not agree to any temporary or permanent limitation on immigration but is prepared to accept "millions" of new citizens from among the Zionists of the world.

This statement was made to this correspondent today by Premier David Ben-Gurion. Mr. Ben-Gurion received the writer in Israeli General Headquarters, an extremely well guarded area.

The main points he stressed were:

1. The ultimate position of the 300,000-odd Arab refugees from Palestine would depend on the treatment meted out to Jewish populations in the Arab lands.

2. Israel would accept no limitation of any sort on immigration. One of the Arab truce conditions was that immigration be frozen for the present.

3. Israel would insist on its claim to the southerly Negeb desert and would not barter its pretensions to that area for any other piece of land.

4. Israel pledged guarantees to all inhabitants and citizens of freedom of religion, assembly and so forth, and would grant the civil rights generally accepted by the Western democracies.

5. The present Government not only was determined to put down any efforts by extremist minorities to seize power by a coup, but also would insist, by force, that if and when a peace was signed and the frontiers for the new state were fixed, these borders would be respected by all revisionist groups.

6. The economy of the new state was self-supporting as far as the present population went, but Israel would require aid from foreign Jewish communities to care for future immigrants.

7. The Israeli Government now had taken custody of the five Britons kidnapped in Jerusalem by Irgun Zvai Leumi and would investigate allegations of espionage against them. If the inquiry proved the accusations were groundless, the men would be released; if not, they would be tried under the legal code of Britain's former Palestine mandate.

The Premier flatly refused to consider the possibility of any limitation—temporary or permanent—on immigration, declaring:

"We will not accept any dictation from abroad or any self-imposed restrictions.

"We cannot estimate how many people we can absorb, but this I can state—we can take millions."

Mr. Ben-Gurion was emphatic on the subject of the Negeb, which was partly overrun by the Egyptian Army, awarded to Israel in the United Nations partition plan, and coveted both by King Farouk I of Egypt and King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan, who, some suspect, would lease Britain rights for a military base there if he obtained title.

Asked whether Israel might not be especially interested in the Negeb because of rumors that there were rich petroleum deposits beneath its surface, Mr. Ben Gurion replied:

"We do not care for oil. We need land and we will settle it."

In response to a question as to what type of electoral system votes be used when Israeli voters go to the polls later this year, Mr. Ben-Gurion said:

"I am afraid proportional representation will be the system governing voting. Personally, I prefer the Anglo-Saxon system of voting, but our people are not used to it."

"As far as our internal economy goes," he declared, "we are now making plans for a new tax system which will certainly be more liberal than that of the mandate days. * * * We also are studying new industrial programs—even including a steel industry."

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