

AMONG THE NATIONS

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Flags at the UN
building, New York

S. Azran

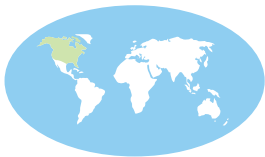
AMONG THE NATIONS

The State of Israel, a member of the United Nations since 1949, maintains relations with the majority of the world's countries. With memories of centuries of persecution, the shattering experience of the Holocaust, and the decades-long Arab-Israeli conflict, Israel's foreign policy has been geared to advance peace in the region while ensuring the country's security and promoting cooperation with all nations.

...אדיר חפצה של ישראל לקיים יחסים תקינים עם כל המדינות,
עם ממשלותיהן ועם עמיהן... (דוד בן גוריון, תשי"ג)

It is Israel's fervent wish to maintain good relations with
all countries, with their governments and their peoples...

(David Ben-Gurion, 1952)



NORTH AMERICA

United States

Eleven minutes after the proclamation of Israel's independence on 14 May 1948, American President Harry S. Truman extended recognition to the new state. This act marked the beginning of a relationship based on common values and was characterized by deep friendship and mutual respect. Both countries are vibrant democracies whose political and legal systems are anchored in liberal traditions; both began as pioneer societies; and both are still absorbing and integrating new immigrants. At times the two countries have 'agreed to disagree,' settling their differences as friends and allies.

At the same time that the United States was beginning to develop its diplomatic and political relations with Israel, it also joined other Western countries in an arms embargo to the Middle East, believing that by so doing regional tensions would be significantly reduced. After 1952, the Eisenhower administration's pursuit of Arab support for a Middle East security pact foreshadowed a radical departure from the Truman administration's partiality towards Israel. Relations between Washington and Jerusalem only drew closer again in the late 1950s following American disillusionment with Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser's policies. During the Kennedy administration, the previous American policy on arms supplies was reversed

with the lifting of the existing embargo.

Since the latter part of the Johnson administration in the late 1960s, American diplomacy has been based on a commitment to Israel's right to exist within secure and recognized boundaries to be achieved through direct negotiations with its Arab neighbors.

Believing that a strong Israel is a *sine qua non* for attaining peace in the region, the United States committed itself to maintaining Israel's qualitative edge over Arab armies. During the Nixon and Carter administrations, it assisted in concluding disengagement agreements between Israel and Egypt and Israel and Syria (1973-74), the Camp David Accords (1978), and the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty (1979).

During the Reagan administration, relations not only flourished, but were also given a more formal and concrete content. In addition to previous commitments, memorandums of understanding were signed (1981, 1988), forming the basis for setting up a number of joint planning and consultative bodies, which in turn generated practical arrangements in both military and civilian fields. These frameworks of mutual cooperation were subsequently codified in a wider memorandum (1988).

The first Bush administration endorsed Israel's peace

initiative (1989) and co-sponsored the Madrid Peace Conference (1991), which led to the convening of peace talks in Washington, D.C.

The Clinton administration played a key role in the Middle East peace process by actively supporting the agreements between Israel and the Palestinians, Israel's peace treaty with Jordan, negotiations with Syria and efforts to promote regional cooperation, including an end to the Arab boycott. Pledging to maintain Israel's qualitative edge, it also committed itself to minimizing the security risks that Israel might incur in its pursuit of peace.

The George W. Bush administration took several important measures to back Israel in its war against terrorism, and Israel supports President Bush's vision for achieving peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

The continuing and deepening amity between Israel and the United States has been defined by various American administrations in terms ranging from the preservation of Israel as a 'basic tenet' of American foreign policy, with emphasis on a 'special relationship' between the two nations, to a declaration of an 'American commitment' to Israel. By the early 1980s, Israel was regarded by the United States as a 'strategic asset' and was designated (1987), in accordance with legislation passed the previous year, as a 'major non-NATO ally.'

Congressional backing for Israel is bipartisan. Support for annual military assistance, the peace process and Israel's struggle against terrorism have been hallmarks of Congress' commitment to United States–Israel friendship, as was the passage of legislation (1995) recognizing Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel and calling for the establishment of the United States Embassy in Jerusalem. The 'special relationship' encompasses mutual economic, political, strategic, and diplomatic concerns. Israel currently receives some \$2.6 billion a year in security and economic aid (economic aid is being reduced by \$120 million every year and military aid is reduced by \$60 million every year, until the year 2008; thereafter Israel will receive a total of \$2.4 billion in military aid), and bilateral trade has been enhanced by the Israel-United States Free Trade Area Agreement (1985).



U.S. Secretary
of State
**Condoleezza
Rice** with Foreign
Minister **Tzipi
Livni**

U.S. Embassy in
Israel / Matty Stern

A growing number of joint ventures sponsored by Israeli and American industrial firms have been established, and several American states have entered into 'state-to-state' agreements with Israel, involving activities ranging from culture to agriculture.

The United States usually stands by Israel's side in international forums, staving off attempts both in the

United Nations and in associated bodies to push through anti-Israel resolutions. The two countries have been cooperating to their mutual advantage in exchanges of intelligence and military information, as well as in the war against international terrorism and the campaign against drugs. United States-Israel friendship is bolstered by support from the American-Jewish community and a wide segment of American society.

CANADA

Canada recognized Israel de jure in 1949 and Israel and Canada have had full diplomatic relations for many years, based on common democratic values, with bilateral links enhanced by cultural and scientific exchanges.

Canada-Israel economic relations have become closer through the implementation of the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement (CIFTA).

In the international arena, Canada's support for Israel is expressed through its generally pro-Israel stance in various UN forums.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



On 29 November 1947, the UN General Assembly voted on the establishment of two states, one Jewish and one Arab, on the territory included in the British Mandate for Palestine; 13 of the then 20 Latin American member nations voted in favor. In the 1950s and 1960s, relations with countries of the region were strengthened, due in no small measure to joint programs in which Israel shared its experience and skills in areas such as agriculture, medicine, organization of cooperatives, and rural, regional, and community development. Thousands of trainees have participated in study programs in Israel. Developments in the international arena during the 1960s and 1970s led to a lessening of support for Israel of these countries, mainly at the UN and its affiliated bodies.

Today Israel maintains full diplomatic relations with all the countries of Central and South America and the Caribbean region, except Cuba. These relations are reflected in productive cooperation in the political, economic and cultural spheres, as well as in a large number of bilateral agreements in many areas.

Commerce is extending steadily. A Free Trade Agreement between Mexico and Israel, concluded in 2000, added a

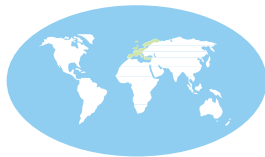
new dimension to this sphere. Exports, including chemicals, hi-tech software, agricultural produce, machinery and electronics, and imports, consisting mainly of meat, grain, corn, sugar, cocoa, coffee, and metals, are both on the increase, and Israeli banks, construction firms and agricultural planning and development companies are active in the countries of Central and South America and the Caribbean.

Many Israelis visit Central and South America, particularly young Israelis for whom a visit to these regions is part of a post-Army right of passage.

WESTERN EUROPE

Western Europe is Israel's most natural trading partner. The establishment of a free trade zone (1975) with the European Community (EC) led to a significant increase in exports to Europe, and an even greater increase in EC exports to Israel. This growth in trade has been accelerated by the development of close business connections between entrepreneurs and investors and the setting up of joint ventures, as well as by efforts to strengthen economic ties with the member countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). The Israel-European Union (EU) Association Agreement, signed in 1995, came into force in June 2000, allowing for heightened political dialogue, as well as closer economic relations. In the mid-1990s, Israel joined the Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development of the EU. In November 2007, the EU-Israel Business Dialogue was established with the aim of promoting understanding and cooperation between the private sectors of the parties. In December 2004, the Action Plan under the European Neighborhood Policy was concluded between Israel and the European Union.

Along with the United States, Russia, and the United



Prime Minister
Ehud Olmert
with German
Chancellor
Angela Merkel

GPO / Amos Ben
Gershon

Nations, the European Union is a member of the “Quartet” which seeks to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict through the peace process.

CENTRAL EUROPE AND EURO-ASIA



Relations between Israel and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, which were renewed as soon as these countries restored their democracies, are becoming increasingly close, especially in economic matters, culture, tourism, and international cooperation activities. Economic agreements with these countries are of importance, given that many of them are members of the European Union or candidates for future membership.

As these countries had been the center of world Jewry before World War II, the memory of the Holocaust is a significant factor in relations with them. Issues being dealt with include restoration of nationalized Jewish public and private property to their owners or legal heirs, recognition of the 'Righteous among the Nations' who risked their lives to save Jews during the Nazi era, and cooperation with the governments of the region to combat manifestations of antisemitism.

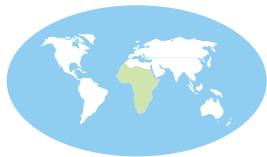
Israel's relations with the Eurasian states (former Soviet Union) have gained momentum, particularly in the political, economic and cultural realms. Official visits and new agreements have laid a solid foundation for expanding these relations. Trade and investment ties are

showing impressive growth. More than a million former Soviet citizens now living in Israel form a human bridge between Israel and their countries of origin, adding a special dimension to the relations.

Israel's ties with the Russian Federation are of strategic importance given its active involvement in the diplomatic process in the Middle East (as a member of the Quartet) and in the negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program.

Israel continues to enhance its relations with Central Asian Caucasus states, where there is great demand for Israeli MASHAV aid in the fields of public health, advanced agriculture, water resource management and the fight against desertification. Other important issues are the preservation of Jewish heritage in the Eurasian states, perpetuation of the memory of the Holocaust and the fight against antisemitism.

AFRICA



Israel's ties with the Sub-Saharan African countries date from the mid-1950s; first contacts with some of them had taken place even before they achieved independence. In 1956, diplomatic relations were established with Ghana, followed by most countries south of the Sahara; by the early 1970s, Israel maintained full diplomatic relations with 33 countries there. These ties were an expression of African affinity with Israel, itself a young state that had achieved independence in 1948 and was eager to share its experience and expertise with the newly independent African states. Mutually beneficial economic ties were also developed, including many joint ventures.

In the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War in 1973, followed by the global oil crisis, most of the Sub-Saharan countries severed diplomatic ties with Israel, due to two prime factors: promises of cheap oil and financial aid from the Arab states, and compliance with the OAU (Organization of African Unity) resolution, sponsored by Egypt, calling for the severing of relations with Israel. Only Malawi, Lesotho, and Swaziland maintained full diplomatic relations with Israel, while a few other countries sustained contact through interest offices in foreign embassies.

Cooperation did, however, continue to some extent;



Foreign Minister
Tzipi Livni
 with African
 ambassadors to
 Israel

Flash 90

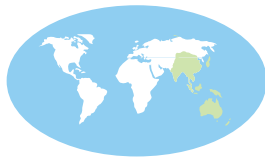
African students participated in training courses in Israel; and Israeli experts were active throughout the continent.

Since the 1980s, diplomatic relations with sub-Saharan countries have been gradually renewed, gaining momentum as peace negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbors progressed. By the late 1990s, official ties had been reestablished with 39 countries south of the Sahara.

Today, Israel and the sub-Saharan countries are engaged in an ongoing political dialogue, expressed in reciprocal visits by heads of state and government ministers. Furthermore, dynamic activities exist, including economic and commercial ties, cultural and academic contacts, a variety of joint agricultural projects, medical assistance, professional training programs, and humanitarian aid in times of need.

Israel has followed with interest the process of political and economic integration in Africa and the creation of the African Union. As an expression of friendship and solidarity, Israel has reiterated its commitment to work together with the emerging institutions and organizations in Africa, adding another chapter to its unique relations with this continent.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



Israel maintains diplomatic relations with most Asian states. The growing economic strength and political influence of these countries has contributed to the intensification of ties in the political, cultural and, above all, economic spheres. Technical cooperation with Israel in the areas of scientific R&D, rural development, agriculture and education has played an important role in strengthening relations with the developing countries of the region.

Israel and China established diplomatic relations in 1992. Since then, they have developed their relations steadily, culminating in the historical visit of the Chinese president to Israel in 2000 and the visits of three Israeli presidents to Beijing.

Since the mid-1980s, Israel and Japan have expanded their bilateral relations, reflected in the signing of several agreements and in the reciprocal visits of prime ministers. Japan has also played a significant role in the multilateral peace process.

Diplomatic relations with India, which started in 1992, have also intensified since the late 90s in all aspects. In 2003, Israel's prime minister made the first ever visit to New Delhi. In the year 2000, Israel renewed diplomatic relations with Sri-Lanka.

Diplomatic relations with the Republic of Korea were established in 1962. In the last few years the relations are booming in every field. In the year 2007, foreign ministers of both countries exchanged visits.

Israel also maintains good relations with many ASEAN member countries. Some of these ties date back 50 years and more, as in the case of Myanmar, Thailand and the Philippines. Some ties began more recently, when Israel with Cambodia, and Laos. Relations with Vietnam have developed rapidly since 1993, especially in the fields of economics, trade and agricultural cooperation. An annual political dialogue was established between the two foreign ministries in 2005.

Nepal and Israel have a long tradition of close and very friendly relations, which began in the early 1960s. Nepal's foreign minister visited Jerusalem for the first time in 2007, announcing the opening of an embassy in Tel Aviv.

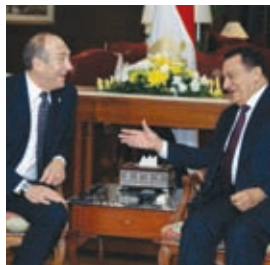
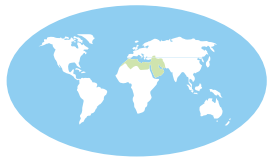
Israel has had full diplomatic relations with Australia and New Zealand for many years. In recent years, relations were established with 12 independent island nations of the Pacific. Israel shares with these countries its experience in various fields.

THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT

Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty in 1979, marking the end of 30 years of relentless hostility and five costly wars. The treaty was preceded by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem (1977), at the invitation of Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin, as well as the signing of the Camp David Accords (1978), which constituted a basis for peace between Egypt and Israel and between Israel and its other neighbors. The accords also addressed the need to solve the Palestinian issue, following a five-year interim phase of autonomy for the Palestinian Arab residents of Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) and the Gaza Strip. President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their achievement.

The peace implemented between Israel and Egypt consists of several major elements, including the termination of the state of war as well as acts or threats of belligerency, hostility or violence; the establishment of diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties; the removal of barriers to trade and freedom of movement; and withdrawal by



Prime Minister
Ehud Olmert
with Egyptian
President **Hosni
Mubarak**
•
GPO / Moshe
Milner

Israel from the Sinai peninsula, with agreed security arrangements and limited force zones. Israel completed its withdrawal from Sinai (1982) according to the terms of the treaty, giving up strategic military bases and other assets in exchange for peace.

Although Egypt was ostracized by other Arab states following the signing of the treaty, all have since reestablished relations with Egypt and reopened their embassies in Cairo. The headquarters of the Arab League, which had been transferred to Tunis, were reinstated in Cairo in the early 1980s.

Having to overcome 30 years of distrust and hostility, normalization of relations between Israel and Egypt is a long and arduous process. Yet, embassies and consulates were established by both countries, and meetings between government ministers and high-ranking officials take place regularly.

Following the renewed outbreak of Palestinian terrorism (September 2000), relations cooled considerably and Egypt recalled its ambassador, who was returned at the beginning of 2005. Nevertheless, trade and cooperation continued, and the joint military committee meets regularly. In light of Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip, to which Egypt contributed, relations have improved.

JORDAN

The peace treaty between Jordan and Israel, signed at the Akaba-Eilat border crossing (October 1994), was preceded by a meeting of King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington three months earlier, when the two leaders proclaimed an end to the state of war between their countries.



Prime Minister
Ehud Olmert
and Jordan's
King Abdullah II

GPO/ Amos
Ben Gershom

Although de facto at war with each other for 46 years, Israel and Jordan had maintained secret contacts and concluded mutually beneficial agreements throughout that period.

The 1991 Madrid Conference led to public bilateral talks, culminating in a formal treaty (1994) in which both countries have undertaken to refrain from acts of belligerency, to ensure that no threats of violence to the other will originate within their territory, to endeavor to prevent terrorism and act together to achieve security and cooperation in the Middle East by replacing military preparedness with confidence-building measures. Other provisions include agreed allocations from existing water resources, freedom of passage for nationals of both countries, efforts to alleviate the refugee problem and cooperation in the development of the Jordan Rift Valley. The international boundary delineated in the treaty has

replaced the 1949 cease-fire lines and is delimited with reference to the British Mandate boundary (1922-48).

With the ratification of the peace treaty, full diplomatic relations were established and, since then, the relationship between Israel and Jordan has been moving forward steadily.

The basis for implementation of the Israel-Jordan peace treaty was established with the signing and ratification of 12 bilateral agreements in economic, scientific, and cultural spheres. These treaties are to serve as the foundation of peaceful relations between Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The most significant expression of the peaceful relations is the establishment of Qualifying Industrial Zones (QIZs), which enables Jordan, via cooperation with Israel, to export to the US quota-free and tariff-free commodities worth more than one billion dollars. Israel is also cooperating with Jordan in two agricultural projects and in public health.

King Abdullah II, who succeeded his father, King Hussein, in March 1999, visited Israel in April 2000.

Following the renewed outbreak of Palestinian terrorism (September 2000) in the territories, relations with Jordan cooled and Jordan recalled its ambassador. There has been a gradual development of relations and Jordan

returned its ambassador in 2005.

In June 2003, King Abdullah II hosted a summit in Aqaba with President Bush and with Prime Ministers Sharon and Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas. In April 2004, King Abdullah II visited then Prime Minister Sharon at his residence in the Negev.

GULF STATES

As a result of the Oslo peace process in the Middle East, the Gulf States showed interest in relations with Israel for the first time since 1948. Initial contacts were followed with a series of reciprocal visits by high-level officials. In May 1996, Israel opened trade representation offices in Oman and Qatar to develop economic, scientific, and commercial relations, with emphasis on water resources utilization, tourism, agriculture, chemicals, and advanced technologies.

Since the renewed outbreak of Palestinian terrorism in 2000, relations with the Gulf States have cooled. Israel's trade representation office in Oman has been closed.

MAGHREB COUNTRIES

In 1994, three North African Arab states – Morocco, Mauritania, and Tunisia – joined other Arab countries and chose to take the path of peace and reconciliation by forming diplomatic ties with Israel.

Initiated in different ways at various levels, relations between Morocco and Israel were formalized when Israel opened a liaison office (November 1994) in the Moroccan capital, Rabat. Four months later, Morocco opened its office in Israel, thus formally establishing bilateral diplomatic relations.

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Israel concluded an agreement at the Barcelona Conference (November 1995), in the presence of the Spanish foreign minister, to establish interest sections in the Spanish embassies in Tel Aviv and Nouakchott, respectively. Mauritania opened its diplomatic mission in Tel Aviv (May 1996) and indicated its wish to fully normalize relations with Israel.

In October 1999, Mauritania became the third Arab country (after Egypt and Jordan) to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel.

Following a timetable worked out by Israel, Tunisia, and the United States (January 1996), Israel opened an interest office in Tunisia (April 1996), and Tunisia reciprocated six weeks later (May 1996).

Diplomatic relations with the moderate Maghreb countries are important because of the role these countries play in the Arab world, and also because of Israel's large population of North African emigrés who retain an

emotional attachment to the countries where their families lived for many centuries. This affinity is an asset which may lead to more profound relationships and make a practical contribution to the peace process.

After the renewal of Palestinian terrorism in 2000, Morocco and Tunisia broke off diplomatic ties with Israel. Nevertheless, some commercial relations and tourism continue, as well as contacts in other fields.

HOLY SEE



Pope John Paul II
at the Western
Wall in Jerusalem

GPO/ Amos
Ben Gershon

The establishment of full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Holy See (under the terms of a Fundamental Agreement signed in Jerusalem in December 1993) may be viewed as a step of major significance in an historic process of change in the Church's attitude to Judaism and the Jewish people, publicly initiated by the declaration known as *Nostra Aetate*, issued by the Second Vatican Council in 1965.

In their Fundamental Agreement, Israel and the Holy See noted the "*unique nature of the relationship between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people...*" and committed themselves to "*appropriate cooperation in combating all forms of antisemitism and all kinds of racism and religious intolerance, and in promoting mutual understanding among nations, tolerance among communities and respect for human life and dignity,*" and "*the peaceful resolution of conflicts among states and nations, excluding violence and terror from international life.*" Additional obligations concern the Status Quo regime affecting the Christian Holy Places, questions relating to freedom of religion, pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and other matters.

In November 1997 an agreement was signed in Jerusalem

defining the status of the Catholic Church in Israel and its hierarchy under Israeli law. This marks the first *de jure* recognition of the Catholic Church by any government in the Holy Land.

In March 2000, Pope John Paul II came to Israel on a personal pilgrimage of the Holy Places, meeting with President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Ehud Barak. Other events included meetings with the chief rabbis and visits to Yad Vashem and to the Western Wall. The visit emphasized the continuing process of understanding between Judaism and the Catholic Church.

THE UNITED NATIONS

The State of Israel was admitted to the United Nations (UN) as its 59th member on 11 May 1949. Since then, it

has participated in a wide range of UN operations and has endeavored to make its full contribution to UN organizations dealing with health, labor, food and agriculture, education and science. Israel plays an active role in the work of non-governmental organizations, conducted under UN auspices, which deal with issues ranging from aviation to immigration, from communications to meteorology, from trade to the status of women.

World Zionist Organization (WZO) was founded at the First Zionist Congress (1897) with the aim of facilitating the return of the Jewish people to its ancient homeland, the Land of Israel, and reviving Jewish national life in the country. The WZO's primary objective was attained in 1948 with the establishment of a legally secured, internationally recognized Jewish state - the State of Israel. Since then the

For five decades Israel was excluded from a regional group in the United Nations; in April 2000 it was admitted to the Western Regional Group (WEOG) on a temporary basis until it could join the Asian group. Since then, Israel can elect and be elected

to major United Nations bodies. Israel was elected (through WEOG) to the vice presidency of the 60th UN General Assembly.

Some UN resolutions have been of crucial significance for Israel. Among them are Security Council Resolutions

242 (22 November 1967) and 338 (22 October 1973), which provide an agreed framework for settling the Arab-Israel dispute.

Over the years, the UN has been active in bringing about a cessation of hostilities between Israel and its Arab neighbors by appointing mediators, extending UN auspices to cease-fire and armistice agreements and stationing UN forces between the adversaries.

The UN has been used for years as a battleground for political warfare against Israel. The 21 Arab states, with the aid of Islamic countries and their ally the non-aligned camp, constituted an 'automatic majority', assuring the adoption of anti-Israel resolutions in the General Assembly.

In its effort to bring into the General Assembly the Jewish narrative, Israel succeeded in 2005 in convening a special session of the General Assembly on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Nazi concentration camps in Europe and to include the adoption of a new General Assembly resolution on an annual Holocaust Remembrance.

WZO has functioned as liaison to Diaspora Jewry, promoting activities which focus on the unity of the Jewish people and the centrality of Israel in Jewish life; facilitating immigration; fostering Jewish education in Jewish communities worldwide; and defending the rights of Jews wherever they live. The democratically-elected World Zionist Congress, the supreme body of the WZO, meets every 4-5 years in Jerusalem.

WORLD JEWRY

Since the first exile (586 BCE) and subsequent dispersions of Jews throughout the world, a unique and dynamic relationship has existed between Jews living in the

Land of Israel and those residing outside it. Although separated by long distances over many centuries, the Jews have remained one nation, bound by a common history, religion and homeland as well as a collective commitment to the physical and spiritual survival of the Jewish people. The establishment of the State of Israel (1948) grew out of their 2,000-year-old dream to return to their ancestral homeland and revive its national life and sovereignty.

Today the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) is involved in developing the relationship between the State of Israel and world Jewry. It was constituted (1929) by the World Zionist Organization to represent the Jewish community in the Land of Israel vis-a-vis the British Mandate authorities, foreign governments and international organizations. After Israel attained

Recent estimates put the world Jewish population at more than 13 million, 41 percent of whom live in Israel. Jews everywhere share a spectrum of history, ideals and interests, and are engaged in ongoing dialogue on a wide range of issues.

World Jewry, in recognition of the centrality of Israel in Jewish life, participates in building the country, through social, political and financial support, as well as by coming to Israel, making it their home and adding their particular

skills and cultural backgrounds to the Israeli mosaic. A long tradition of mutual aid among Jews is manifested in a multifaceted network of organizations designed to cater to hundreds of Jewish-Israeli interests.

For its part, Israel constantly seeks to strengthen the Jewish communities and its bond with them by helping those in need, promoting Israel-oriented activities, Hebrew language study, economic opportunities and visits of groups and individuals to Israel.

The State of Israel actively attaches high importance to the security of Jewish communities all over the world. Following the recent rise in antisemitism, Israel - in cooperation with Jewish organizations, and with governments in Europe, the United States and other parts of the world - is combating racism, in general, and antisemitism, in particular.

independence, partial responsibility for certain national tasks was delegated by law to JAFI and the WZO, including immigration and absorption, rural settlement and immigrant housing, educational and youth activities, as well as urban renewal. In recent years, many of these functions have been assumed by the government.