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### ISRAEL MOURNS PASSING OF PRESIDENT BEN-ZVI; STATE FUNERAL TODAY

JERUSALEM, April 23. (JTA) -- The people of Israel went into deep mourning today for their beloved President, Izhak Ben-Zvi, who lost his fight against the ravages of cancer and died early this morning. He was 78 years old.

A deep gloom enveloped the nation when the death was announced. Light radio programs were canceled and renditions of the Psalms and liturgy were substituted. Members of the Cabinet, diplomats and senior Government officials began calling at the President's residence to pay their respects.

A state funeral will be held Wednesday. All entertainment and recreational features of the 15th Independence Day celebrations were canceled. The military parade and naval display in Haifa on Monday will take place without the usual participation of military bands. Chief of Staff Zvi Tsur issued an order of the day for a week of mourning at all garrisons and camps where flags were lowered to half-mast position. Israel's Parliament suspended its current recess for a special meeting of mourning.

The Presidential residence was thrown open to the public and a somber people lined up to wait in turn to file past the coffin draped in the national colors and the President's personal prayer shawl. A minyan of army chaplains began recitation of Psalms. Among those who filed by the coffin in the morning were Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim, Supreme Court Justices, members of the Jewish Agency executive and others.

The death of Israel's second President occurred at 7:05 a. m. Israel time. Mr. Ben-Zvi had been in a coma and began to sink rapidly during the night. Mrs. Ben-Zvi and members of the family were at the bedside. About 9 p. m. last night, he awoke and repeated the entire Shema. The attending physician then heard the President call feebly for his brother Aaron. He notified the brother, as well as Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion. However, the rapidly dying President failed to recognize either man when they entered his room.

### Kadish Luz to Serve as Acting President; Ben-Zvi's Last Message

Under the law of Israel, pending the election of a new President by the Knesset--the country's Parliament--Mr. Kadish Luz, the Speaker of the Knesset, will serve as Acting President of the State.

President Ben-Zvi's last official message was issued in connection with the Israel 15th Anniversary. The President asked for divine blessing on the defense forces of Israel, on its pioneers and builders and all who sought to advance the education of the people.

He asked that the people recall "all who gave their lives on the altar of the Homeland, the heroes to whom, as to their families, our debt is immeasurable." He urged, as Israel entered its 16th year, that every Israeli double and triple efforts "to achieve our great mission--the strong foundation of our state, the revelation and development of our country's latent power, the enlightenment of our myriad newcomers."

He stressed Israel's "most earnest wish to see peace established throughout the world" and cited the "political upheavals" which regularly "convulse adjacent territories." These conditions, he said, "do not abate our endeavors or weaken our faith that the peace we look forward to between us and our neighbors will surely come. Now, as in the past, we stretch out our hands for peace towards them."

He warned that as long as the Arabs threatened "night and day" to destroy Israel, the nation had no choice but to keep its defenses at peak strength and alertness.

He extended warmest greetings to Jews throughout the world and "fraternal salutations" to all who "turn their gaze upon aliyah to the Homeland."

The President, who was aware of the gravity of his illness, told associates before his death that he hoped he would be able to review the Independence Day parade. The first indication that he might be suffering a serious illness was the disclosure after he entered hospital for examinations a week before Passover, that he would not be at his home for his first Seder. However, only his closest associates knew that the President's illness was more than fatigue.

BEN-ZVI WAS ISRAEL'S SECOND PRESIDENT; DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO ZIONISM

NEW YORK, April 23. (JTA) -- Izhak Ben-Zvi, Israel's second President, was elected for three consecutive terms of office by the Knesset, Israel's Parliament. He was first elected in December 1952, on the death of the country's first President, Dr. Chaim Weizmann. Mr. Ben-Zvi was reelected for his second five-year term in 1957, and his candidature was re-submitted to the Knesset in 1962, when he was reelected without dissent--an indication of Israel's general esteem for its President.

Born in Poltava, in the Russian Ukraine on December 6, 1884, he studied at the University of Kiev and then went to Turkey for study at the University of Istanbul from 1912 to 1914. With the late Dov Ber Borochov, he founded the Poale Zion movement of Socialist Zionism in 1905. He did organizational work for the new movement in Russia, Germany, Switzerland and Palestine, where he settled in 1906.

While teaching at the Hebrew High School in Jerusalem, which he helped to establish, he was a co-founder of Hashomer, the first Jewish defense organization of the then thin and scattered Jewish settlements in Palestine.

Exiled by Turkey from Palestine; Organized Jewish Legion

In 1915, in the second year of World War I, the military regime of Turkey, then in control of Palestine, exiled Mr. Ben-Zvi to Egypt. By that time, he had achieved prominence in several fields, including editorship of a weekly periodical, Ahdut. He left Egypt, went to the United States. In cooperation with his life-long friend, David Ben-Gurion, he helped to set up first the Hechalutz movement, and then the Jewish Legion.

In 1917 he returned to Palestine as a private in the army commanded by Field Marshal Sir Edmund Allenby, the British hero who liberated the ancient land from Turkish rule. In 1919, he married Rachel Lishansky-Yanait. One of their sons, Aili, was killed in action in 1948, during Israel's War of Liberation.

A co-founder of the Ahdut Avodah in Palestine, in 1918, he became a member of the Provisional Jewish Commission of Palestine in 1919; a member of the Jewish National Assembly in 1920, of the Histadrut, Israel's Labor Federation and of the Palestine Government Council from 1929 to 1931. He was chairman of the Histadrut from 1924 to 1929 and a member of the Jerusalem City Council from 1927 to 1930. In 1929, he was a co-founder of the Jewish Agency, established that year in Zurich, Switzerland.

A delegate to many World Zionist Congresses, Mr. Ben-Zvi was a member of the presidium of the Congress twice. Between 1938 and 1947, he represented the Zionist movement and the Palestine Jewish community at various high-level international conferences and inquiries. Among these was the United Nations Inquiry Commission in 1947.

Was Author of Many Scholarly Works; Collaborated with Ben-Gurion

A prolific writer, he was the author of many scholarly works, among them studies of Palestine and its Jewish settlement, Palestine's Arab neighbors and historical and Biblical writings. On several occasions, he collaborated with Ben-Gurion. A five-volume set of his Collected Works was published in 1935.

As a leader of international socialism, he had written books and articles on Zionism, labor, archeology and history. He wrote frequently on Jewish-Arab relations and was an authority on the Samaritans. He held two honorary doctoral degrees, one from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the other from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

A modest and humble man, Mr. Ben-Zvi did not change as President. When the President's salary was raised--over his protests--to \$6,000 a year, he donated half of his larger salary to research. His modest home in Jerusalem was open to visitors from all walks of life, particularly during the major Jewish holidays. Personally an observant Jew, he continued to worship in the small synagogue he had attended as a private citizen and to take part in its weekly class in Talmud.

In 1948, he was one of the 37 signers of Israel's Declaration of Independence. He presented a copy of the document to the United States at a ceremony in this country on the Freedom Train which carried the American Declaration of Independence to cities throughout the United States.

When Israel's first President, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, died in 1952, Mr. Ben-Zvi was the Mapai nominee to succeed him. In 1957 he was elected without opposition to a second five-year term. Again, in October 1962, there was no opposition candidate but 42 voted against him to indicate their objection on principle to a third term for any President, though they made it clear their stand was not against Mr. Ben-Zvi personally.

BEN-ZVI WAS MORE THAN A PRESIDENT IN THE EYES OF JEWS, GOLDMANN SAYS

TEL AVIV, April 23. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the late President Ben-Zvi was "more than just a President in the eyes of the Jewish nation and in the eyes of millions of non-Jews.

"He symbolized the highest characteristic of the Jewish nation in its homeland--devotion and a modest and human approach to all citizens of the state and to each citizen in particular. He was therefore beloved by all of us," Dr. Goldmann said.

## ISRAEL CABINET ANNOUNCES FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRESIDENT BEN-ZVI

JERUSALEM, April 23. (JTA) -- A special session of Israel's Cabinet approved today funeral arrangements for Israel's President, Izhak Ben-Zvi, and appointed a mourning committee. Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion presided.

The coffin, accompanied only by the Ben-Zvi family, was moved this afternoon to the Jerusalem Convention Hall where the body will lie in state until tomorrow noon with an honor guard of all the armed services. Thousands of mourners were expected to file past the bier this afternoon, tonight and tomorrow.

From Convention Hall, the coffin will be carried through Jerusalem's main streets, stopping before the small Rehavia Synagogue where the President went to pray and before the Parliament building where the late President will be eulogized by Speaker Kaddish Luz.

The coffin will be carried part of the way by six army brigadiers and later will be carried on a command car. Five thousand people, representing all walks of life in Israel, will form a procession to accompany the coffin up to the last stage of the trip to the cemetery. For that stage, only a smaller group will be permitted.

The President will be buried not on Mount Herzl but in the general cemetery, Har Hamenuhot (Hill of Repose) in accordance with his last wish. Some time ago, the President acquired a plot in the cemetery, earmarking as a family plot where his father and stepmother lie buried.

### Ben-Gurion Delivers Eulogy At Special Cabinet Session

Prime Minister Ben-Gurion delivered a brief eulogy at the special Cabinet session in which he called the late President the "personification of the unity of Israel, love for Israel and all the finest qualities for which the best of our people have been distinguished since the days of old."

The Prime Minister said that despite the late President's "wealth of achievements," he was "one of the most modest among us. He never tried to push himself forward and, when he was asked to assume some important function, he would express astonishment that he should be called on to carry out that particular task. He did not become arrogant or over-bearing and he performed the services of the Presidency humbly and devotedly with that humility which characterized the whole of his life."

Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim at a special mourning session of the Rabbinat Council said that the late President's personality "illuminated the entire House of Israel."

The official seven-day mourning period will be marked by a 24-hour closing of theatres, cinemas and cafes starting tonight. Israeli vessels on the high seas will cancel music, entertainment and similar activities for the week, and legations abroad will refrain from receptions for the traditional 30-day mourning period.

Flags of all foreign missions and United Nations agencies, whose representatives called at the Presidential residence to pay their respects and console the bereaved family, will be at half-mast for the week. The Jerusalem consular corps called today on the Government to convey condolences.

Israel's defense forces were in mourning at all camps and installations. Special torches were lit near the flags with guards of honor present. Starting tomorrow morning and throughout the week, one minute of silent attention will be observed during the regular morning parade.

## WHITE HOUSE ISSUES STATEMENT MOURNING DEATH OF ISRAEL'S PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON, April 23. (JTA) -- The White House issued today a special statement mourning the death of Israeli President Izhak Ben-Zvi, stating that Americans "share the sorrow of the people of Israel" at his death. The statement said:

"The United States mourns the death of Israel's eminent statesman, scholar and second President, Izhak Ben-Zvi, with whom we have enjoyed long and cordial relations. His distinguished contributions to his country and his people ensure his lasting place in their memory and his passing will be noted with sorrow by people around the world who have known and respected him for his gentleness and wisdom. We share the sorrow of the people of Israel in their great loss."

## U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL VOICES CONDOLENCES OVER BEN-ZVI'S DEATH

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., April 23. (JTA) -- Secretary General U Thant today voiced his "sincere condolences" over the death of Israel's President Izhak Ben-Zvi, lauding the deceased Israeli Chief Executive for "the dignity he brought to the performance of high office." Mr. Thant had met Mr. Ben-Zvi while visiting Israel in 1955.

The Secretary General sent the following cable to Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister: "May I beg Your Excellency to convey to the members of the Israeli Government my sincere condolences on the occasion of the death of His Excellency, Izhak Ben-Zvi. His attitude of good will to all and the dignity he brought to the performance of his high office during his three terms remain an example to his countrymen. Please extend to Mrs. Ben-Zvi and the members of her family the expression of my deepest sympathy in their bereavement."

## AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS STRESS PASSING OF BEN-ZVI AS LOSS TO JEWRY

NEW YORK, April 23. (JTA) -- Leaders of American Jewry mourned today the death of Israel's President, Izhak Ben-Zvi, in messages of condolence to the Israel Government and to the President's family.

The Jewish Agency for Israel, American section, declared, in a statement issued by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the American section, that Mr. Ben-Zvi "personified the highest achievements of Zionist pioneering and self-sacrifice from the beginning of modern Jewish settlement in Israel in the best traditions of Jewish and Zionist leadership.

"As President of the re-born Jewish State, Mr. Ben-Zvi accomplished the unusual task of bridging the distance between the highest office in the state and the humblest of its citizens, turning the Israel Presidency into a focus of brotherly love, of Jewish unity and of the great Jewish tradition of mutual responsibility. His distinguished Jewish personality shed luster on his exalted office," the statement said.

"His death will be mourned profoundly by Jews the world over and his abiding contributions to the modern Jewish renaissance will enshrine him forever in the annals of the Jewish people and of the Zionist movement," Dr. Neumann concluded.

### United Jewish Appeal Expresses 'Profound Shock and Sorrow'

The officers of the United Jewish Appeal expressed their "profound shock and sorrow at the untimely passing of the great President of Israel," the UJA declared in a statement issued by Joseph Meyerhoff, general chairman. "Meeting and talking with this devoted and irreplaceable leader was always a deeply moving and memorable event for members of the American Jewish community," the statement added.

"His deep compassionate interest in the coming together in the re-born Jewish homeland of immigrants from all corners of the earth, his intense concern for their welfare, their resettlement and absorption, and his understanding of and wise counsel toward the work of the United Jewish Appeal in carrying out and implementing the task of immigration and absorption were an everlasting inspiration," the UJA officers emphasized. "To have known Izhak Ben-Zvi, a man among men, was one of the greatest honors life could have bestowed on us as Americans and as Jews."

The officers of the Israel Bond Organization paid tribute to President Ben-Zvi as a great statesman who was "an inspiration to two generations of builders of the Jewish homeland." Abraham Feinberg, president of the Bond Organization, and Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice-president, said that the death of President Ben-Zvi was a tragic loss to the entire Jewish people as well as to the State of Israel.

The Zionist Organization of America, in a statement issued by its president, Dr. Max Nussbaum, declared that Mr. Ben-Zvi would rank in history "alongside such great historical forerunners of the Zionist movement as Moses Hess, Leon Pinsker and Zvi Kalisher who prepared the groundwork for Dr. Theodor Herzl in presenting to the world his 'Jewish State' and his convening of the first World Zionist Congress."

### Zionist, Non-Zionist Groups Cite Ben-Zvi's Devotion to Jewry

Hadassah, in a statement by Mrs. Siegfried Kramarsky, declared that the passing of Mr. Ben-Zvi "is a profound loss not only for the State of Israel but for World Jewry. President Ben-Zvi devoted his life to the service of the Jewish people and to the advancement of human freedom and human dignity for all mankind. An architect of the State of Israel, he was a tireless exponent of peace and the principles of democracy. With the passing of President Ben-Zvi, the world has lost a great man."

The American Jewish Committee said President Ben-Zvi "was universally respected as a man whose values were rooted in human dignity and creativity. By his lifelong interest and devotion to the problems of Jewish communities, particularly in the under developed countries, he symbolized the ancient humanitarian tradition of the Jewish people."

The American Jewish Congress declared that the devotion with which Mr. Ben-Zvi "served the Jewish people, his warmth and kindness as a human being and the integrity which suffused his administration as President will live not only in the memory of those who knew him but in the institutions of Jewry which he helped to build."

B'nai B'rith said that "Jerusalem has lost a courageous and resourceful leader of its historic resistance during the War of Independence and the citizens of Israel a beloved head of state. Perhaps above all, the Jewish people mourn the loss of one of its most precious possessions, a great and noble scholar."

Statements mourning the death of President Ben-Zvi were also issued by the National Committee for Labor Israel, the American Friends of the Hebrew University, the National Council of Jewish Women, the Synagogue Council of America, the Farband, and others.

The American Zionist Council, sponsor of the New York celebration of Israel's 15th Anniversary Independence Day, said today that a memorial tribute for President Ben-Zvi will be added to the event which will take place April 28.

### ITALY SUSPECTS RAJAKOVIC OF ESPIONAGE FOR IRON CURTAIN COUNTRIES

ROME, April 23. (JTA) -- Erich Rajakovic, the former SS officer under arrest and being investigated in Vienna on charges of having been the key man in the wartime deportation of 110,000 Jews from Holland to the Nazi gas chambers, is now suspected of espionage in Italy on behalf of some Iron Curtain countries, the Italian federal police announced today. If the charges prove correct, authorities said, Italy would demand Rajakovic's extradition from Austria.

Rajakovic, a wartime aide to the late Adolf Eichmann, conducted a highly profitable import-export business with headquarters in Milan. He fled Milan just before one of a leading newspaper in Milan exposed him as an Eichmann henchman. It was known that his firm had many commercial dealings with Soviet satellites.

A search of his main office in Milan, police said, has led to further scrutiny of his branch offices in this city, Venice and Trieste. Italian security officers have found in the Rajakovic files some documents which seem to be semi-secret communications between the ex-Nazi and certain Communist countries.

### U. S. WARNING AGAINST ATTACK ON ISRAEL STRESSED BY STATE DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, April 23. (JTA) -- Phillips Talbot, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, told a foreign policy conference of editors and broadcasters today that the United States has made clear that if Israel should be attacked by the Arab states, it would be a matter of serious concern to this country and to other nations.

In response to a question about chances of reconciliation in the Arab attitude toward Israel, Mr. Talbot said the Arab states were not reconciled to an independent Israel. He said "our hope is that gradually the number of states recognizing Israel will grow and expand."

Information has been received here that Egyptian rocket research is now advanced to the stage that Egypt plans to orbit a weather satellite before the end of this year with the aid of German scientists. The satellite will be propelled by a two-stage rocket burning a new liquid fuel developed in Egypt by the Germans. The rocket reportedly has already been test fired several times.

### SHARETT ADDRESSES GIANT RALLY IN BUENOS AIRES; URGES AID TO ISRAEL

BUENOS AIRES, April 23. (JTA) -- Jews should not fear Nasser's designs against Israel but should, rather, beware of their own indifference to Israel when they fail to contribute adequately to the United Campaign, Moshe Sharett, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, declared here last night.

He and General Joseph Avidar, Israel's Ambassador to Argentina, were among the principal speakers at a giant rally at the Metro Theatre, where the Argentine Jewish community opened its United Campaign and, simultaneously, began celebrating Israel's 15th anniversary. The anniversary celebrations in this country are scheduled to extend over the next two weeks.

Mr. Sharett hailed the increasing immigration of Jews from Latin America to Israel. He noted that, only a few days ago, a ship carrying Brazilian and Argentine immigrants to Israel landed in Haifa, declaring "the second and third generations of those who came to South America instead of to Palestine are now reuniting with their brethren in Israel."

### NINE GIRLS DROWNED IN ISRAEL WHILE BATHING AT TEL AVIV SEASHORE

TEL AVIV, April 23. (JTA) -- Nine girls of the Agudat Israel Teachers Seminary in Beer Yaakov were drowned this afternoon on the Tel Aviv seashore when an entire class from the school went swimming as part of a tour of Tel Aviv. The class, which was under the supervision of an instructor from the school, chose an isolated portion of the beach where the water is particularly deep and surrounded by rocks because the ultra-Orthodox group did not want to be in sight of male bathers.

The tragedy began when one of the girls found the water deeper than she expected and began calling for help. Some 20 other girls rushed to her aid and nine were drowned when heavy waves dashed them against the rocks. Eight bodies have been recovered and a ninth girl is missing and presumed drowned. The other members of the swimming party were rescued by personnel of the nearby Sheraton Hotel and were taken to the hospital for treatment. Four of the girls are still on the critical list but it is hoped they will recover.

The girls, aged 15 to 17, attend the Beit Yaakov Seminary in Beer Yaakov which prepares teachers for the Agudat Israel's independent education network.

### MONTREAL MAYOR PROCLAIMS CENTENNIAL WEEK OF BARON DE HIRSCH INSTITUTE

MONTREAL, April 23. (JTA) -- This week has been proclaimed by the Mayor of Montreal as the "Centennial Week of the Baron de Hirsch Institute in Montreal," an agency of the Federation of Jewish Community Services here.

The proclamation noted the "humanitarian services and activities of this outstanding welfare agency" and commended the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Institute "to all citizens of Montreal as an occasion for rededication to the precepts of service to our fellow men."

