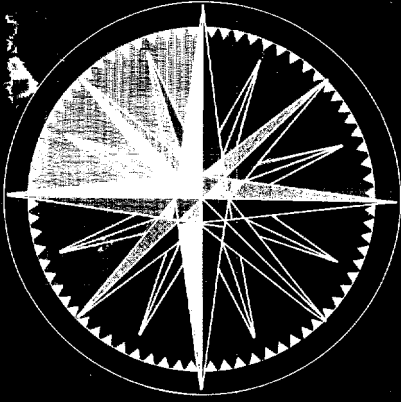


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# SPECIAL REPORT

ISRAEL'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

MORI/CDF Pages 1-9

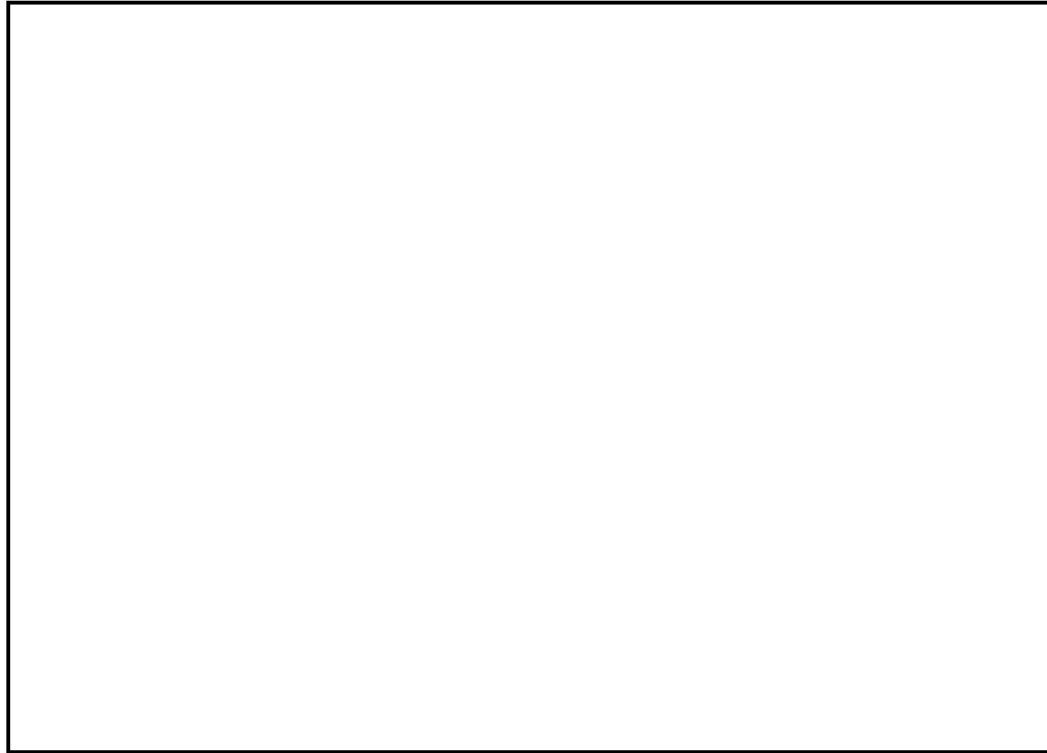
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9 October 1964

## ISRAEL'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Israel is conducting a program of technical assistance to African, Asian, and Latin America countries aimed primarily at winning support for Israel's position in disputes with the Arabs. This program has been sufficiently successful to prompt the Arabs to take countermeasures. Most of the aid has been given to African countries, but Latin America is receiving increased attention. Israel's primary assets in carrying out this program are its <sup>1.3(a)(4)(5)</sup> population, with its wide variety of technical skills, and its experience in coping with problems facing a small developing country. The Israelis would like to have US financial and political support for many of their projects and have also sought financing from other Western sources.

Political Background

In 1947, Israeli leaders--even before they had a country to govern--worked diligently to secure the majority in the UN General Assembly which passed the resolution dividing Palestine into Arab and Jewish sectors. When Israel proclaimed its independence the next year, the Arab countries, unreconciled to the idea of such a state in their midst, declared war. The UN's first intervention in an international conflict brought only a truce, and despite the efforts of the UN Truce Supervision Organization since that time, the recurrent border disputes occasionally reach the Security Council. In addition, the UN Emergency Force, which patrols the Israeli-Egyptian border, and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees have responsibilities which involve Israel.

UN organizations thus are the means by which many decisions affecting Israel's interests are carried out, but the Israelis--belonging formally to no bloc--have little influence on these decisions and organizations, except through other members of the UN. These circumstances, together with its other international aspirations, have obliged Israel to be unusually active in seeking diplomatic support from countries throughout the world, and particularly from among the new states in Africa.

Over-all Program

Prime Minister Eshkol announced a year ago that the Israeli Government had, during the past 16 years, sent some 850 experts and advisers to developing countries. He said that many hundreds of experts and professional workers had

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also been sent to these countries by private or quasi-public Israeli organizations. During the same period, some 4,500 trainees and students from abroad participated in hundreds of courses and seminars in Israel. In 1963, alone, according to Foreign Minister Meir, about 500 Israeli experts were sent to serve in 51 countries. Approximately 2,100 students and trainees from 79 countries also spent varying amounts of time in 1963 in Israel learning techniques for coping with problems at home.

The net totals to date thus probably come to more than 1,000 Israelis sent abroad by the government and about 6,000 foreign nationals trained in Israel. At least 70 countries have formal bilateral technical cooperation agreements with Israel.

#### Cost Problems

In some cases Israeli experts have all their expenses paid by the countries in which they serve, but usually the costs are split. Such arrangements have enabled Israel to conduct its aid programs on a relatively small budget. For the 1963-64 fiscal year, only \$800,000 is budgeted for "technical assistance." Israel does not provide development loans or grants and rarely shoulders capital costs. In certain instances, it has advanced loans for the procurement of goods and services in Israel.

#### Types of Program

Israel's population is its most abundant resource from the standpoint of the aid program. Israel's "native" culture is essentially European, with a high general level of Western style education. A large proportion of the

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immigrants who have come to Israel are from Europe, and many have technical and professional skills. Each year, immigration adds further talent to the labor force. A few years ago, for example, there was a substantial influx of Jewish physicians from Rumania. Israel did not send them abroad because they were so recently arrived, but their presence permitted the assignment of other physicians to Africa.

Thus, although a variety of techniques are used, Israel in essence either sends technicians abroad or trains foreign nationals in Israel. Those who go abroad include teachers, construction and civil engineers, labor and agricultural specialists, medical personnel, and military [redacted] advisers. The Israelis also have filled requests for a football coach and an expert in state lotteries.

A typical example of an Israeli technical cooperation agreement is the one signed last April with Togo. The fields in which Israel offered to furnish training include agricultural education and development; public health and medicine; general, professional and scientific education; air, land, and sea transportation; and the development of natural and industrial resources. Israel agreed to provide scholarships in each of these fields and also to furnish, "within the limits of possibilities" and upon the request of the Togolese Government, experts, technical consultants, and specialized workers.

### Military Programs

In the field of paramilitary activities, Israel's "Nahal" and "Gadna" programs have attracted considerable attention in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Nahal is the Israeli organization which provides personnel for the country's paramilitary border settlements. These constitute Israel's first lines of ground defense. Activities in the Nahal are divided between military training and agricultural work. Service in it is an alternative to regular military service. Gadna is a voluntary corps of Israeli high school boys who receive weekly military training and attend military camps in the summer.

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The Histadrut, along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also maintains a Center for Cooperative and Labor Studies for students from Latin America. About 250 people have already studied at the Center, most on OAS scholarships.

Histadrut's own building and construction firm, Solel Boneh, is another medium through which the labor federation operates in newly developing countries. Solel Boneh has entered into several commercial ventures with foreign governments which provide the greater share of capital. Solel Boneh, in addition to providing the remaining funds, supplies most of the organizational and managerial talent. Ventures of this type have been in operation in Burma, Nepal, Iran, Turkey, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, and Tanganyika.

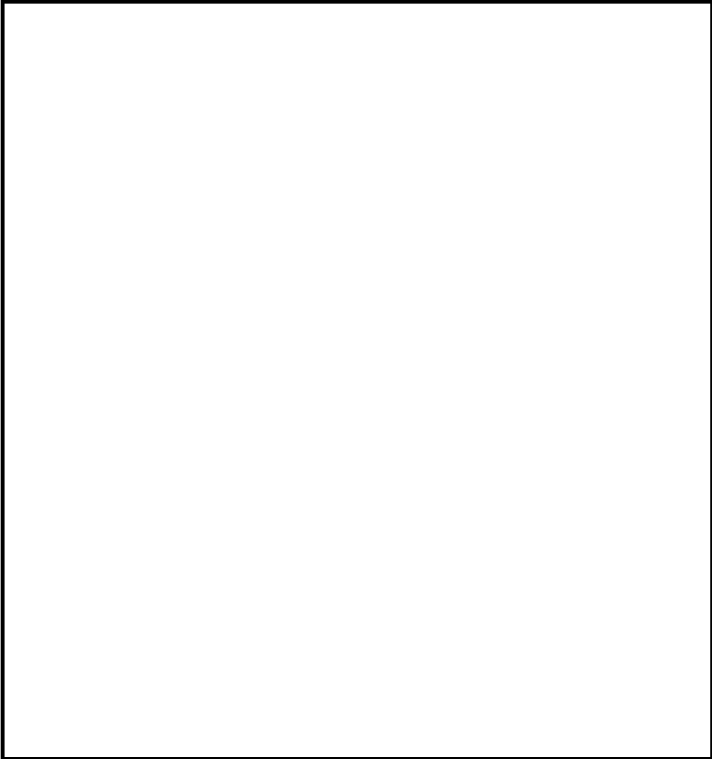
#### Labor and Cooperatives

Israel's labor federation, the Histadrut, also participates in foreign aid activities. In 1960 it established, with financial aid from the AFL-CIO, an Afro-Asian Institute for Labor and Cooperative Studies. Some 740 students from 57 countries have attended the institute. Courses have been presented in English, for trainees from former British colonies, and in French, for those from French-speaking territories. According to the Israeli press, the British Trades Union Congress, the Swiss and Scandinavian labor federations, the International Labor Organization and the EEC, as well as the AFL-CIO, have given scholarships to foreign trainees for attendance at the Institute.

#### Regional Distribution

Burma was the earliest Asian recipient of Israeli technical assistance. In 1952, Burmese socialists became interested in Israeli agricultural collectives and cooperatives. Since then, a variety of assistance has also been given to India, Ceylon, Nepal, Singapore, Malaya, and Thailand. The Israelis also have recently offered agricultural and health training programs to South Vietnam. Vietnamese officials are especially interested in Israel's experience in agrarian community development.

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East Africa. The Israeli Embassy in Addis Ababa has been designated the coordinating center for these and other activities in the area. Israel has a commercial as well as a political interest there, since it views East Africa as a natural market for products shipped from Eilat, the Israeli port which has access to the Red Sea via the Gulf of Aqaba.

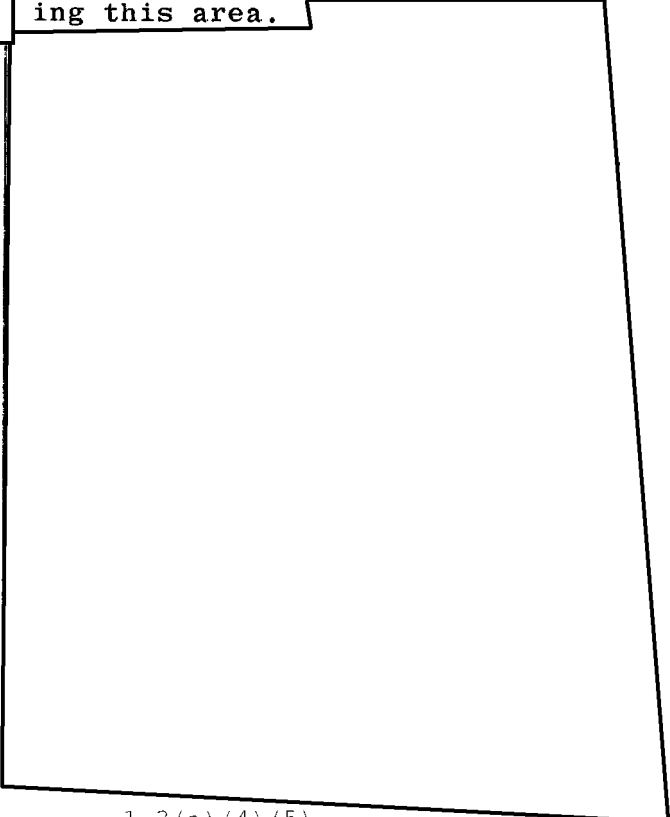
The recent decision of the minister of defense to give priority to Nahal and GADMA activities in Latin America apparently is only part of a broader plan of the Israeli Government to become more active in promoting technical assistance to countries there. Deputy Prime Minister Eban is now visiting this area.

Ghana, Nigeria, and Liberia have long been recipients of Israeli aid in Africa. More recently the Ivory Coast has become a focal point of Israeli assistance to West Africa in the agricultural and paramilitary fields.



In this connection, Angola's rebels may be involved. Some of the insurgents already have been trained in Israel, and Israel probably also has supplied arms to them.

On the other side of the continent, the Israeli Government reportedly has decided to increase its technical and military assistance activities in



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#### Evaluation and Arab Reaction

In general, Israeli technical assistance projects have been well received and have provided much-needed skills. In terms of Israel's political objectives, the program also is succeeding. There is evidence of this in the way Israeli aid recipients have defended it at international meetings where the Arabs have pressed anti-Israeli moves. One such attempt, for example, was thwarted by Burma's U Nu at the nonaligned conference in Belgrade in 1961.

Also in 1961, an Israeli proposal calling for direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs was sponsored in the UN General Assembly by African and Latin American states, many

of which receive Israeli aid. The resolution was not adopted, but the backing the proposal received was indicative of the support Israel can probably muster when its interests are challenged by the Arabs in the UN.

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The Israeli program, however, is not without its problems. The government of Israel itself is not satisfied with its program in Africa,

A committee has been formed to work on some "sorely needed guidelines." In the official's opinion, Israel's approach has been too pragmatic and some projects have proved to be ill-conceived. He mentioned Nigeria as a country where Israel's program does not seem to be working out well.

Two years ago, after a visit to Africa, he criticized Israeli technicians for having adopted the living standards of "whites" and urged instead that they accept a more modest standard of living, preferably in African villages. He feared that otherwise people in the developing countries would soon add the image of the "show-off Israeli" to that of the "ugly American."

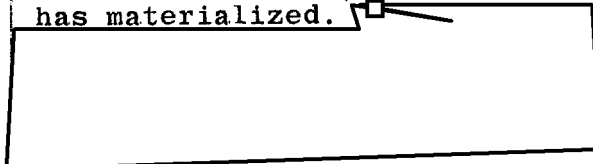
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One measure of the success of the Israeli technical assistance program is the concern that has arisen among the Arab states over Israel's efforts to expand its influence. Nasir, in particular, seems to be disturbed by the threat Israeli influence poses for his own influence and stature in Africa and the non-aligned world. The Arab League's recommendation last year that the Arab states draft a "unified policy" for meeting the challenge does not appear to have stimu-

lated much activity. Egypt does extend aid to a few countries in Africa, but apparently is not trying to compete directly with the Israeli program. Kuwait and Lebanon have announced plans to strengthen their economic ties with Africa for the specific purpose of counteracting Israel's activities, but little has materialized.



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