

**SOVIETS AND PALESTINE  
USSR-ISRAEL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS**

**3. SEVERANCE OF RELATIONS**  
January 31, 1953  
February 21, 1953

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**THE FINAL SECTION OF THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE SOVIET MISSION IN ISRAEL FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1952.  
January 31, 1953**

Secret.

The position of the Arab countries towards Israel remains hostile. In recent statements, Arab officials have reaffirmed their willingness to comply with the Arab League's decision to boycott trade with West Germany if it ratifies the treaty with Israel. Among the industrialists and traders of West Germany there are many opponents of this treaty. The Adenauer government, in an attempt to find a way out, offered the Arab countries the conclusion of treaties on the most favourable trade and agreed to the UN's control over supplies to Israel under the reparations treaty. Finally, according to a December 24 message, Adenauer said, "We will not resist if the UN decides to give some of the reparations to Arab refugees." Negotiations between West Germany and Egypt have been taking place for a long time, in which the issue of repatriation is also being discussed.

In connection with the trial in Prague over a group of conspirators, spies and saboteurs led by Slan, the Israeli government tried to inflate the country's unprecedented anti-Soviet campaign. The press denied all the facts presented at the trial, in particular concerning the so-called Morgen-tau plan. However, on December 1, 1952, United Press confirmed that Ben-Gurion and Charette were indeed in the United States when Acheson was secretary of state. The press was subjected to a frenzied hysteria allegedly in connection with the campaign of anti-Semitism in the countries of popular democracy, as the Israeli Government and the press tried to present the trial of a gang of traitors of the Czechoslovak people. The tone of the campaign was set by Charette, who made an angry slanderous statement in the Knesset on 24 November 1953 about the Prague process. All this flow of vicious slander and accusations of anti-Semitism by the USSR was necessary to mask the acts of espionage and sabotage carried out by the imperialist camp and its Israeli agents in the countries of popular democracy.

The Israeli bourgeoisie amicably picked up the slanderous statements of the Israeli government about the "existence of anti-Semitism" in the USSR, knowing, however, the falsehood of such allegations. The American reactionary Rabbi Silver, for example, stated, "I cannot believe that alleged anti-Semitism was any factor in the Prague process" (Kol Ghaam, December 22, 1952). All Israeli parties, except the communist one, are involved in fanning anti-Soviet hysteria, which had its consequences of the bombing of the Czechoslovakian mission on December 4, the arson of a Soviet car near the Soviet mission building on December 8, 1952, and, finally, the arson of the Soviet book store in Jerusalem on January 15, 1953.

The new stage of anti-Soviet hysteria began with the publication in the Soviet press on January 13, 2017 of an official report on the disclosure of a group of doctors who carried out medical means of terror against the leaders of the party and the government and the command of the Soviet army. The fact that some of these criminals are Jews was the reason for the vicious attacks against the USSR. On January 19, 1953, a special meeting was held in the Knesset in connection with the so-called "anti-Jewish campaign" in the USSR. Opening the debate on the issue, the chairman of the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee, Argov, said: "The current fraud charges against the seven Jewish doctors guilty only of being Jews

cannot pass without strong protest, not only because they are slanderous, but because they involve the possible extermination of two million Jews under the control of the Kremlin." At the same meeting, a new anti-Soviet statement was made by Charette, in which he juggled the words "fabrication", "anti-Jewish course, officially adopted in the USSR", "campaign of atrocities, propaganda and terrorism, undertaken by the Soviet authorities against their Jewish citizens" etc., stood up to protect the criminals and organizations from which they acted. Charette repeated the allegations of alleged repression of Jews in the Soviet Union and ended with a demand to allow Jews to emigrate to Israel.

The aim of this new anti-Soviet campaign is to:

- 1) Show the United States and, in particular, the new government of the Republican Party that the Israeli government stands firmly on the side of the United States and that they can fully rely on its support in the implementation of its aggressive plans in the Middle East and continue to use Israel as a spy centre to work in the countries of the socialist camp.
- 2) Increase the activity of American Jews in raising funds and providing other types of assistance to Israel. The requirement to emigrate Jews from the USSR, in the face of a significant reduction in immigration as a result of economic difficulties, is demagogic and is designed to strengthen Israeli requests for "assistance".
- 3) Strengthen the highly shattered position of the Mapai Party in the country and present it as the main defender of Jews and a fighter for Zionism and immigration.
- 4) To divert the attention of the population from the economic difficulties, which have recently increased significantly.
- 5) Use the rise of nationalist sentiment in the country in order to strengthen the offensive on the democratic rights of workers, progressive organizations and, above all, Maki.

### **Soviet Envoy to Israel P. Ershov**

#### **TELEGRAM OF THE SOVIET ENVOY TO ISRAEL P.I.ERSHOV TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE USSR. February 9, 1953**

On 9 February, at 10:35 p.m., a large bomb exploded inside the mission. All the windows, window frames and doors on the first, second and part third floors have been broken. The envoy's wife, the wife of the caretaker and the chauffeur Grishin were seriously wounded, who were sent to the hospital by ambulance. The mission building was damaged. The police officer on duty tried to call the police but could not be contacted. Police and ambulances were called by the envoy. Half an hour later, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Levavi and head of the Department of Eastern European Countries Ben-Tsur arrived on the mission. They tried to express regret, but I did not accept their apology and stated that the bombing was the result of a systematic anti-Soviet campaign and formal protection of the mission building established after the arson of the mission vehicle in December 1952.

Glass and doors were also broken in the buildings around the mission. The Swiss envoy, who lives opposite at least 50 metres away, came to confirm that the windows in his mission had also been broken. The inspection established that the

saboteurs entered the mission territory, cutting through the passage in the net, which enclosed the mission territory, with scissors.

This terrorist and sabotage act against the Soviet mission in Israel is the result of the recent anti-Soviet campaign by the Israeli Government.

I ask your permission to visit Charette tomorrow and to declare to him the most severe and decisive protest. I believe that in this case it would be appropriate to cut off diplomatic relations with the Israeli Government.

I ask you to telegraph immediately.

**Ershov**

**TELEGRAM OF THE SOVIET ENVOY TO ISRAEL P.I.ERSHOV TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE USSR.**

**February 10, 1953**

Yesterday, Prime Minister Ben-Gurion made the following statement in Parliament:

.....

From Ben-Gurion's statement, two questions should be noted: 1) The Government, the Foreign Ministry or the police department did not ask us about the protection of the mission yard. The police officers on duty sometimes entered the mission grounds on their own, checked the documents of the visitors, which was the reason for our appeal to the Israeli Foreign Ministry with the permission of the center. The police were able to guard the building from the other two sides without being on the mission site, but instead of guarding the visitors. Ben-Gurion's statement is a clear attempt to absolve the Government of responsibility for the act of sabotage.

After calling the police, I took two officers and showed them the scene and some of the injuries, but did not allow several people who called myself secret police agents to be unformed. This led Ben-Gurion to state that I did not allow the "experts" to investigate. Ben-Gurion's statement on this constitutes an attempt to acquit the Government in advance in the event that the perpetrators are not apprehended, which is very likely. In our statement or note on the sabotage, it would be appropriate to respond to Ben-Gurion's 5 attempts to absolve the Responsibility of the Government of Israel for the attack on the mission.

**TELEGRAM OF THE SOVIET ENVOY TO ISRAEL P.I.ERSHOV TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE USSR.**

**February 10, 1953**

On the evening of February 10, I received the following letter from the President of Israel:

"Dear Mr. Ershov,

...."

(Given in translation by the Israeli Foreign Ministry.)

This letter to the President has the same purpose as the government statement reported in the previous telegram.

**Ershov**

**RECORDING OF THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE USSR A.Y.VYSHINSKY AND THE ISRAELI ENVOY TO THE USSR.**

**February 12, 1953**

**Today, February 12, at 1 a.m.,** Eliashiva received, read out and handed him a note of the Soviet government in connection with the terrorist act committed on February 9 against the Soviet mission in Israel (attached).

Eliashiv tried to argue that the statements of the Government of Israel expressing regret over the terrorist act were not a false game, but expressed the sincere conviction of the Israeli people.

I replied that the Israeli people were one thing and the Government of Israel was another. There is no doubt that the terrorist act perpetrated against the Soviet mission in Israel is a direct result of the unbridled and hostile campaign against the Soviet Union, which was carried out in Israel by direct incitement of the Israeli Government. The Government of Israel bears full responsibility for the above criminal act.

The reception lasted 7 minutes.

**February 11, 1953**

On February 9, on the territory of the Soviet Mission in Israel, the attackers, with the apparent connivance of the police, detonated a bomb, seriously injuring the wife of the Messenger K.V. Ershov, the wife of the Mission officer A.P.Sysoev and a member of the Mission I.G. Grishin. The explosion damaged the building of the Soviet Mission.

On 10 February, the President and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel sent letters to the Soviet Mission apologizing for the atrocity and declaring the condemnation of the criminal act by the Government of Israel and its measures to track and punish the perpetrators.

However, in the light of the well-known, undeniable facts of the participation of representatives of the Government of Israel in the systematic incitement of hatred and hostility to the Soviet Union and incitement to acts hostile to the Soviet Union, it is clear that the statements and apologies of the Government of Israel over the terrorist act of 9 February in the territory of the Soviet Mission are a false game aimed at citing the crime committed against the Soviet Union and to evade the Responsibility of the Government of Israel for this atrocity.

Not only articles published in the press of Israel's ruling parties, but also speeches in parliament by representatives of these parties and members of the Government of Israel, in particular the speech of minister of Foreign Affairs Charette on January 19, which openly incite hostile actions against the Soviet Union, are provocative.

The terrorist act of 9 February demonstrates the lack of basic conditions in Israel for the normal diplomatic activities of the representatives of the Soviet Union.

In view of this, the Soviet Government withdraws the Soviet Union Envoy and the composition of the Soviet Mission in Israel and terminates relations with the Government of Israel.

The Soviet Government, however, declares that it is impossible for the Israeli Mission to remain in Moscow and demands that the Mission's personnel leave the Soviet Union immediately.

**NOTE OF DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE USSR J.A. MALIK TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE USSR J. V. STALIN.**

**February 16, 1953**

On 12 February, Polish Foreign Minister Sksheeszewski handed the Charge d'Affaires of the USSR in Warsaw a memorandum stating that in connection with the terrorist act against the Soviet mission in Israel and the totality of the hostile activities of the Israeli Government, the Polish Government considers it appropriate to undertake a joint statement of the countries of popular democracy against Israel and that the Polish Government considers the most appropriate form of response to such a provocation by Israel. At the same time, Sksheeszewski said that they were instructed by the Polish ambassadors in Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria to find out the views of the governments of these countries on the Polish proposal.

On February 12, Romanian Foreign Minister Bugic informed the Charge d'Affaires of the USSR in Bucharest that due to the cessation of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Israel before

The Hungarian Government notified the Soviet Ambassador that in connection with the cessation of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Israel, it had an intention to sever diplomatic relations with Israel, especially since the Hungarian authorities had materials on the espionage work of Israeli mission personnel in Budapest. The process of exposed spies is being prepared on these materials, but the issue of the termination of relations with Israel is not necessarily associated with this process.

The Hungarian Government also reported that the Polish Government was proposing that Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria collectively protest a terrorist act against the Soviet mission in Israel, and that the Hungarian Government was in principle in accordance with the proposal.

In connection with the Polish proposal mentioned above, the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry informed the Charge d'Affaires of the USSR that the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry agreed to send the relevant note to the Israeli government.

The governments of Poland, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria have asked through the embassies of the USSR to inform the opinion of the Soviet government on these issues.

On February 16, the Foreign Ministry of Czechoslovakia appealed to the Foreign Ministry of the USSR through the ambassador in Moscow with a request to inform our opinion on whether Czechoslovakia should continue to maintain relations with Israel, especially given the Czechoslovakian note to Israel of 4 February this year, in addition to the Czechoslovak Government's earlier demand for the recall of the Israeli envoy from Czechoslovakia, it was pointed out that the Israeli Government had provoked and supported the anti-Czechoslovak campaign and that all responsibility for the deterioration of Israeli-Czech-Czech relations was attributed to the Israeli government.

The USSR Foreign Ministry considers it appropriate to instruct the Ambassadors of the USSR in Poland, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria on the proposal for a joint speech of these countries to give the following answer:

The Soviet government responded to the terrorist attack against the Soviet mission in Tel Aviv by severing diplomatic relations with Israel. Moscow considers it impractical to reinforce this with a joint statement from friendly countries.

The question of the cessation of diplomatic relations with Israel raised by the governments of Poland, Hungary and Romania, which Moscow believes should not be linked to a terrorist act against the Soviet mission in Tel Aviv and the cessation of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Israel. The continuation of diplomatic relations with Israel should be considered depending on the state and the specific conditions of those relations.

The Foreign Ministry of Czechoslovakia, through the Czechoslovak ambassador in Moscow, also responded.

A draft resolution of the CPSU Central Committee is attached.

Please consider.

**NOTE OF DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE USSR J.A. MALIK TO THE SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION G.M. MALENKOV.**

**February 21, 1953**

Secret.

I inform you that the former Israeli mission in Moscow left the Soviet Union, passing through the Soviet-Finnish border on February 20 at 11 p.m. 35 mins

According to a maple telegram received by the USSR Foreign Ministry from Ershov, the composition of our mission in Israel finished landing on the Turkish steamer "Kadesh" in the port of Haifa (Israel) on February 20 at 7 p.m. Moscow time.

According to the Bulgarian envoy to Sofia Bogdanov, the steamer "Kadesh" left Haifa on February 20 at 10 p.m. 50 mins Israeli time (23 hours 50 mins Moscow time).

**J. Malik**