



2 Basic Policy of the Government of Israel

17 Dec 1957

► VOLUMES 1-2: 1947-1974

X. THE SECOND DECADE

2. Basic Policy of the Government of Israel, 17 December 1959:

On 3 November 1959, Israeli voters elected the Fourth Knesset. On 8 December 1959, President Ben-Zvi charged David Ben-Gurion with the formation of the new Government, and it was presented to the Knesset on 11 December. In his speech, the Prime Minister made known the basic policy guidelines of the Government, which reflected those announced to the Knesset in 1955 by the outgoing Government. Here is the foreign policy section:

The Government of Israel will support every step likely to bring about general and complete world disarmament and the complete abolition of armed forces, with effective and continuous international control of such disarmament, to ensure that "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Israel will propose to all the Arab Governments - even before the establishment of permanent peace between us and the ensuring of political, economic and cultural co-operation - that the armistice agreements be replaced by non-aggression pacts and that all political, economic and military acts of hostility shall cease, with effective guarantees by the United Nations authorities.

Until general disarmament is accepted and carried out throughout the world, the Government of Israel will propose to all Israel's Arab neighbours - Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon - an agreement leading to full disarmament and the abolition of the armed forces in Israel and the above-mentioned Arab States, on condition that constant and unhampered mutual control of this agreement is assured, and that the borders and sovereignty of all these States are not affected.

Israel will continue to refrain from lending its support to any aggressive trend or alliance directed against any State whatsoever, and will be faithful to international co-operation with all nations in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

Israel will continue to foster relations of friendship and mutual assistance with every Peace-loving State without inquiring into its internal regime and without violating the interests of any other State.

Israel will continue its efforts to establish mutual relations of friendship with the peoples of Asia and Africa and will, within the limits of its modest ability, aid the economic, cultural and social development of young States.

Israel will strengthen its ties with all the countries that help to promote its security and development and enable their Jewish communities to share in the upbuilding of Israel and to emigrate to it.

Israel's relations with other States will be based on:

- a. The sincere desire to strengthen peace in the entire world, and particularly in the Middle East;
- b. The requirements of Israel's security, immigration, development and economic and political independence;
- c. The position and the trend of the Jewish people in the Diaspora;
- d. Fidelity to international co-operation and the principles of the United Nations Charter.

The Government will endeavour to gain support for the ingathering of the exiles and permission for Jewish emigration from countries where it is still not permitted, and work for the strengthening of Israel's ties with all those countries where Jewish communities reside.

In all matters connected with foreign relations, the Government of Israel must protect the full sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and democratic regime of Israel, and ensure that its relations with other countries are based on equality, mutuality and the prevention of aggression from any quarter whatsoever.