

# We Salute Our Confirmands, Consecrants and Graduates

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# THE JEWISH NEWS

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Michigan's Only English-Jewish Newspaper — Incorporating The Detroit Jewish Chronicle

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The Jewish News dedicates this issue to our youth who have consecrated themselves to Jewish studies, with the hope that they will rededicate themselves to uninterrupted links with Jewish learning.

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# Showdown With Washington Sought by Nasser, Experts Feel

**NEW YORK**—(Direct JTA Teletype Wires to The Jewish News) Whether by accident or deliberate design, President Nasser of the United Arab Republic has put himself in the position of directly challenging the United States and the Western powers, and the crisis in the Middle East has mushroomed into a far greater issue than an Arab-Israeli confrontation.

This view, expressed with increasing frequency in recent days at the United Nations and in Washington, was reported by Earl W. Foell, UN correspondent with the Christian Science Monitor.

He said Wednesday that "President Nasser's showdown move against Israel at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba is read here as a direct challenge to the United States and other Western powers." Until a few days ago, he noted, most UN observers credited Nasser with "a brilliant tactical move" aimed at relieving pressure on Syria. Now, he said, "they feel he is determined to force a showdown with Washington as well."

His motivation, according to these UN observers, is Nasser's "fear that he might be next in a line of coups against anti-Western leaders"—a

fear they said he felt was confirmed by "Washington's economic squeeze against him."

The noted American military analyst, Hanson W. Baldwin, likewise saw more in the developing crisis than an Arab war against Israel. He said Wednesday in an article in the New York Times that "Yemen, Aden and oil—rather than war with Israel—appear to be the objectives of Nasser in the new crisis. He added that "military men familiar with the statistics and the intangibles of military power in the Middle East suggest that neither a general Arab attack upon Israel nor a major Israeli attack upon the Arab states is planned. President Nasser's moves, it is agreed, are keyed to political conflicts that have always plagued the Arab states, and to his ambitions in the Arabian peninsula."

After comparing the military assets and liabilities of both sides, Arab and Israeli, Baldwin concluded that the Arab superiority in manpower and equipment was largely offset by the persistence of the basic weaknesses demonstrated in the 1956 Sinai Campaign, though to a lesser degree: their limited capability for maneuver or mobile warfare and their geographical separation. A comparison of the tangibles and intangibles of military power in the Middle East, he concluded, "would seem to indicate that neither side has enough superiority to court all-out war."

The New York Times associate editor and commentator, James Reston, excoriated Nasser in an article Wednesday and warned him that he was heading for "the same unhappy destiny" that befell other "strutting dictators"—Sukarno in Indonesia, Nkrumah in Ghana and Ben Bella in Algeria.

"Nasser," he said, "overreached himself in threatening to close the Strait of Tiran and invade Israel. Everybody is talking softly here for the moment in the hope of giving Nasser a diplomatic retreat, but nobody should be fooled," he declared. "The United States has quietly reassured the Israelis that it will meet its commitment to oppose an Arab invasion of Israel, and it will soon become apparent that the United States and the other major maritime powers will not permit their ships to be searched or seized on Nasser's orders."

Reston reported that Washington "is a little edgy" at the moment. It still does not believe in a war in the Middle East and it is confident that it will get help in restraining Nasser, but it is still more concerned about what the Soviets are doing than it cares to make clear in public."

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## Israelis Do Not Frighten So Easily, Either by Nasser or by Recessions

By PHILIP SLOMOVITZ

**TEL AVIV**—There are heartening factors in the spirit of Israel that should give courage to Disapora Jewry. There was a matter of another war scare this week. Nasser had asked that the United Nations remove the emergency force from the Gaza border. That meant a massing of troops on both sides of the crucial area. Had Nasser moved too deeply, had the El Fatah infiltrators caused additional damage on the Syrian border, it might have meant war.

Indeed, there were ominous signs of an impending danger. It accomplished one thing: it reaffirmed the people's unity in time of crisis.

For those who have studied developing conditions, the rumblings have appeared as another bluff. It is true that Nasser did, indeed, mass many troops. But past experiences already have indicated that Israel does not frighten: there is only an alert to assure that the state remains prepared; and there are all indications that because Israel is so certain of being able to defend its borders the war-mongering neighbors neither want nor will they risk it.

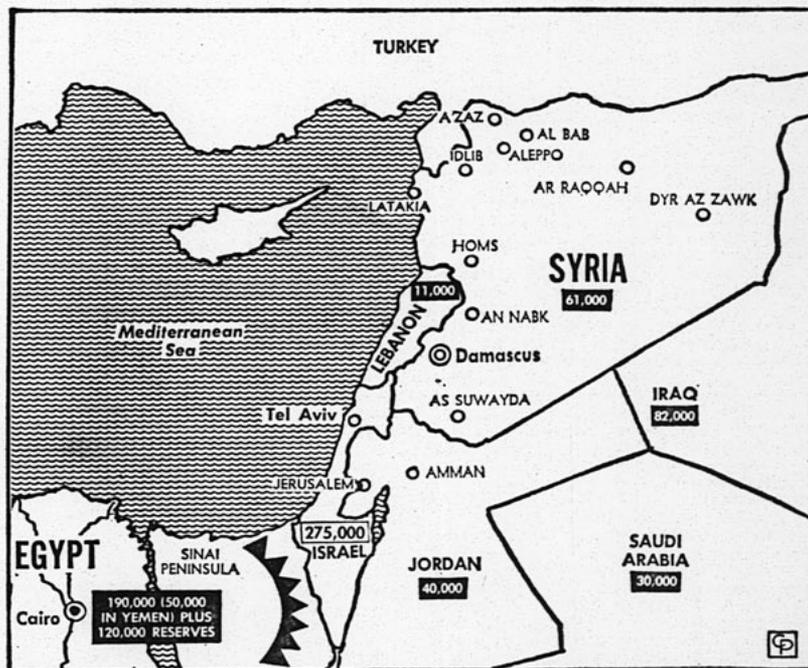
Then there is the economic scare. So much concern has been expressed for Israel's status, especially in view of reports of a growing unemployment, that the Israelis' kinsmen abroad became worried. There is, indeed, a recession, but the new economic policy introduced here carries with it an assurance that new strength will be acquired from the program introduced to increase productivity, to reduce the imbalance in imports and exports, to create new industries.

An interesting factor, related to productivity, is a point in proof of the workability of the new program. Kupat Holim reported that the claim of sick leave has declined in the last few weeks by 60 per cent. It is a clear indication of workers' readiness to cooperate in increasing productivity, in assuring a dedication to a national effort to reduce the indifference that had been charged to labor in recent years.

Also: for the first time in Israel's 19-year history, labor has yielded to a program of sacrificing a wage increase.

Fear over the effects of a recession and an impending economic crisis is more rampant in Detroit than it is in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv. Knowledgeable Israelis poo-poo the fear that the decline is more than a temporary experience.

Not only Israelis, but noted authorities like Prof. William Haber are much less panicky. Dr. Haber was on a visit in Israel last week. He made a study of conditions and he was optimistic. He felt as many others, both in government and in industry, feel, that the recession is temporary and its effects will be less serious than many feared. In fact, there is hope that the planned new economic policy will redound to Israel's benefit.



Here is how the army manpower situation adds up in the Middle East. The Arabs under arms far outnumber the Israelis. Israelis are given a big, big edge in morale and ability.