

ISRAEL CELEBRATES HER SEVENTH BIRTHDAY
-- April 27, 1955 --

The State of Israel celebrated its seventh Independence Day on April 27, 1955. It has been a difficult but fruitful seven years for Israel. Added to all the problems of new statehood was the burden of an unwanted war. Even today her national life is greatly aggravated by an uneasy armistice and an economic blockade imposed by the neighboring states.

In celebration of the event, let us, however, concentrate on positive developments. What has been the fruit of these seven years? The record indicates that the harvest has been a rich one. Consider the following accomplishments alone:

1. The term of the Second Knesset (Parliament) expires in July, 1955. Israel is a parliamentary democracy of the type evolved in Western Europe. The Knesset consists of a single 120-member chamber elected for a four-year term on the basis of proportional representation. The Cabinet is responsible to the Knesset and holds office as long as it enjoys the confidence of the Knesset. Since the establishment of the State, there have been three coalition governments comprising almost the same political parties.
2. Israel has been recognized by 62 countries and is represented in 48 countries. Israel was admitted to the United Nations on May 11, 1949, a year after the Proclamation of Independence.
3. The population has nearly tripled. Most of this increase has been brought about by mass immigration. Between May 15, 1948 and December 31, 1954, 735,394 persons immigrated to Israel.
4. Since 1948-49, the physical volume of agricultural production has increased by almost 125%. The cultivated areas have doubled and the irrigated areas almost trebled. During the last seven years over 400 new settlements were established as compared with 277 during the previous 70 years. More than 110,000 permanent housing units have been built.
5. In the four-year period, 1950-1954, the volume of industrial production increased by about 60%.

Israel, Land Reborn

The above points represent just a few of the accomplishments of this new democracy. But why not see them for yourself? -- write for our new ACPC film, Israel, Land Reborn. This graphically portrays the growth of Israel and encourages us to hope for a similar development of the other countries in the area.