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BEN GURION AND THE SUMMIT MEETING

On March 25th, Prime Minister David Ben Gurion addressed the Ninth Convention of Mapai, the Israel Labor Party, at its second session in Tel Aviv. It was the day after the Prime Minister's return from a highly successful two-week visit to the United States and Great Britain, Israel's own contribution to the spate of leader-to-leader exchanges that have recently bespangled the international airways. In his address to the 2,000 Mapai delegates, Ben Gurion said that he had "explained to the leaders of the United States, Britain and Germany, to the best of my ability, Israel's attitude on the momentous problems of the world today, including those of the Middle East and Israel, and I believe that my journey has not been in vain." Not without some pride he later went on to say:

"In the course of my talks on this occasion with the heads of three powers, I realized that there is an additional significance in the fact that we are a world people. We have become a factor of no insignificant weight in world affairs, and countries in all the continents are aware of this fact and take it into account ..."

In point of fact -- according to observers -- the Israeli Premier was reported highly elated by the results of his tour. These can be summed up as follows, on a country-by-country basis: In Washington, President Eisenhower gave assurances that the United States still stood by the Tri-Partite Declaration and that it was ready to act unilaterally in support of it. (Under this Declaration, the Western Big Three pledged action inside or outside the U.N. against any attempt to change existing Arab-Israel boundaries by force.) In New York, Chancellor Adenauer promised to consider carefully an Israeli request for a \$500 million loan for investment in maritime and agricultural development when German reparations end in 1962. In England, Ben Gurion pressed successfully for the right to purchase modern British armaments -- to offset diminishing supplies from France.

Particularly encouraging about this latest yield of Western friendship is the fact that it was harvested on the slopes of the summit meeting this May. Ben Gurion wanted to make sure that Israeli interests would not be bartered away at the Big Four conference. In his two-hour talk at the White