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WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR. LEVI ESHKOL, PRIME MINISTER

AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF ICELAND:

LOD AIRPORT

NOVEMBER 1, 1964.

Mr. Prime Minister and Mrs. Benediktsson,

I know that I speak in the name not of the Government alone but of the entire people of Israel when I welcome you in our midst with our ancient greeting - "Shalom u" vruchim habai m" -

Peace and blessings upon those who come to us!

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The sentiments of friendship and affinity that are felt in I srael towards I celand are in no way diminished by the distance of space that divides us. Your people, struggling for centuries against the cruel elements, have succeeded in establishing on your I sland a society of brave and steadfast men and women, devoted to national traditions and resolute in the constant renewal of their values.

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3. Icelandic history has been shaped by different forces from those that moulded ours. But you and we are one in love of peace, in dedication to democracy, in readiness to face every challenge of creative work.

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4. With so much in common already, I feel sure that the week that you will be spending in I srael as our honoured guests, apart from the personal interest which I hope it may afford you, will bring about a further strengthening of the friendly links that join our two nations in close and harmonious attachment.

Welcome to I srael!

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