

ראש הממשלה
THE PRIME MINISTER

Jerusalem, 3 May 1968

Dear Mr. Pearson,

Upon your resignation from the premiership of Canada, I should like to give expression to my profound feeling of friendship, reflecting my personal appreciation of your efforts, as Prime Minister and as an individual, to advance the cause of peace and understanding in the Middle East, as well as the long-standing bond of friendship that links our two peoples.

Even before Israel's rebirth as a modern sovereign State, in the year 1948, and ever since, your active interest in our country's welfare and development, and your outspoken advocacy of peace and international understanding, in your own Government as in the councils of the United Nations, have been a source of strength and encouragement in trying times.

The past year has seen profound changes take place in the Middle East. Through a strange twist of circumstances, it is just possible that a scheme by which some of the States of our region thought to wipe out a sister-state has brought the entire area a long step closer to peace. Certainly, this is our ardent hope, and we strongly suspect that a similar feeling prevails among very many people on both sides of the cease-fire line.

If this hope, this new opportunity, is realized - and we are working towards this end - not a little of the credit for its achievement will belong to you for having helped in recent years to lay the groundwork.

cc-Louis Rogers

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I was glad to learn that before long you are going to visit Israel, and I am, of course, very much looking forward to seeing you. In the meantime, please accept my sincere good wishes for your good health and for many more years of fruitful activity in the service of your country and of mankind.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'L. Eshkol'.

Levi Eshkol

The Right Honourable
Lester B. Pearson, P.C., M.P.,
House of Commons,
Ottawa