

CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES

ISRAEL SIGNS CONVENTION RELATING TO REFUGEES

Dr. Jacob Robinson, Plenipotentiary for Israel, today signed the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Israel was the thirteenth nation to sign.

"The most revolutionary element of the Convention is the right of supervision," Dr. Robinson said. He explained that never before in international relations had someone been assigned to supervise the application of the provisions of a Convention.

Dr. Robinson said that Israel will cooperate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees who was assigned to supervise the Convention by the United Nations General Assembly.

He said that Israel's standards today are above those set forth in the Convention. "Our refugees are becoming citizens almost as they step off the boat, but we still have a large number of other refugees and we intend to treat them honestly and fairly as nationals in every respect except as to political rights."

Dr. Robinson declared that the chief practical importance of the Convention was that it established standards for employment for refugees.

The signing ceremony was held in the office of Mr. John Humphrey, Director of the Human Rights Division, and in the presence of Mr. James Read, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Convention was examined and adopted in the past month by a 26-nation conference here. It will become effective when ratified by at least six of the signatory countries.

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