

List of Exhibits

List of Exhibits

All the exhibits are from the Israel State Archives, unless otherwise stated

"...on the day of the termination of the British mandate over Eretz-Israel..."

This Union Jack was removed on 30 June 1948 from a mast in the Haifa port, signifying the final conclusion of 31 years of British rule; Cotton and rope; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Gift of Andy Bronfman to American Friends of the Israel Museum on the occasion of the 70th birthday of her husband, Charles

Lowering the Union Jack from a mast in the Haifa port, 30 June 1948, 2:30 pm; Unidentified photographer; Purchased by Andy Bronfman on the occasion of the 70th birthday of her husband, Charles; loaned to the exhibition by Charles Bronfman on the occasion of Israel's 60th anniversary

"We appeal to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people..."

The first flag of Israel to be flown at UN headquarters in New York on 12 May 1949, a day after Israel was admitted as a member state; Gift of Dr. Harry Levine, Connecticut to the State of Israel

The flag of Israel is flown at UN headquarters, New York, 12 May 1949; In attendance: Foreign Minister Sharett, Israel's representative at the UN, Eban, and members of the Israeli delegation; Photograph: © United Nations Photo

Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel read aloud by Israel's first Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion when the State was proclaimed on 14 May 1948; Ink on three parchment-style sheets of paper bound by sinew; sealed with wax and cotton tassel

Silver storage case for the Declaration of Independence, 1949
Artist: David H. Gumbel, born Berlin, active Germany and Jerusalem, 1909–1999; Embossed silver

The Hatikvah anthem as performed during the ceremony in which the Declaration of Independence was read; Recording: *Ts/ii*, Lucian Saltzmann

"We...hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz-Israel..."

Proposed draft of the Declaration of Independence, edited by Zvi Berenson of the People's Administration's Legal Division, 9 May 1948

Drafts of the Declaration of Independence, written during the final stages of composing the document by David-Zvi Pinkas, a member of the People's Council, 13 May 1948

State Proclamation No. 1, a legal addendum to the Declaration of Independence that was also read out by Ben-Gurion during the ceremony on 14 May 1948

"Jewish State" stamps issued in January 1948 – before the official name of the nascent state had been determined – and used as interim postage after the closure of British post offices; Unknown designer. Ha'oman Printing Press, Jerusalem

"...like all other nations, in their own sovereign State"

Proposals for designs of the national flag sent by Israeli citizens in response to a call put out by the Provisional Government, 8 June 1948

Decision reached by the national emblem committee of the Provisional Council of State and sent to the Government Secretary, 29 July 1948

Memo from the Government Printer on the urgency of reaching a decision on choosing a state emblem, 5 November 1948

Flag and Emblem Law, determining the official flag of Israel, 19 [18] May 1949

Official decision regarding the shade of blue to be used on the national flag, 18 January 1950

A sample of the blue shade to be used on the flag with directions for preparing the color

Proposals for a state emblem submitted by citizens in response to an invitation from the emblem committee of the Provisional Council of State, 12 November 1948

"A Small Piece of History", from a series of films produced on the occasion of Israel's Independence Day, 2002; Production: History Channel

The winning proposal for the state emblem

"...the Elected Constituent Assembly..."

Request from artist Ludwig Blum, to attend the first meeting of the Constituent Assembly, the forerunner of the Knesset, to sketch the historic event, 9 February 1949

The first meeting of the Constituent Assembly, 14 February 1949 Artist: Ludwig Blum, Israeli, born Moravia, 1891–1974; Charcoal on paper, Devorah Hermon Collection, Jerusalem

"...the elected regular authorities of the State..."

Diary entry by local Jerusalem leader Moshe Alpert, describing his feelings about the nation's first democratic elections for members of the Constituent Assembly, the forerunner of the Knesset, 25 January 1949

Meeting of the members of the Provisional Government before their resignation, February 1949; Right to left: Perez Bernstein, Rabbi Yitzhak Meir Levin, David Ben-Gurion, Moshe Shertok (Sharett), Aharon Zisling, Bechor Shalom Shitreet, Yitzhak Gruenbaum and David Remez; Photograph: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government Press Office

Letter of resignation sent by members of the Provisional Government to President Chaim Weizmann, in order to begin the process of forming a government after the elections to the first Knesset, 17 February 1949

Abolition of punishment by flogging, 25 July 1950: This legal means of punishment for certain crimes under Ottoman and British law was repealed in Knesset legislation; Original copy signed by Knesset Speaker Joseph Sprinzak, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, and Justice Minister Pinhas Rosen

New immigrants line up to vote in the first Knesset elections in a work camp in Eilat, 1951; Photograph: Government Press Office

Letter from Prime Minister Moshe Sharett, to President Izhak Ben-Zvi, expressing his concern that a Knesset proposal to raise the number of votes required for a parliamentary seat would result in unrest among the Arab parties, 20 September 1954

Official results of the elections to the Ninth Knesset, 26 May 1977; These elections brought about the defeat of the Labor party which had been in power since 1948, and Menachem Begin, leader of the Likud party, became prime minister

"...the realization of the age-old dream – the redemption of Israel..."

Results of the UN General Assembly vote on the partition of Palestine, 29 November 1947; The stenciled page with the results of the vote was kept by Aaron Fishman from New York. Later he asked important figures connected to this historic event to add their signatures to the page, 1947–1950

Order to establish the Israel Defense Forces, signed with handwritten notations by Prime Minister and Defense Minister Ben-Gurion, 26 May 1948

An order granting amnesty to Israel's residents, for previous crimes – excluding those carrying the death penalty or life imprisonment – protected citizens who had broken the law for nationalist reasons, 10 February 1949; Signed by Prime Minister and Defense Minister David Ben-Gurion, Justice Minister Felix Rosenblueth and Minister of Police Bechor Shalom Shitreet

"...the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl..."

Certificate regarding reburial of Theodore Herzl in Israel, presented to Vienna's Jewish community by the government of Israel and the Zionist Executive to mark the reburial, which was carried out in fulfillment of Herzl's final wishes, 12 August 1949

Soldiers near Theodore Herzl's grave before the reburial ceremony, 17 August 1949; Photographer: Yaakov Ben-Dov, Israeli, born Russia, 1882–1968; Gelatin silver print; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Gift of Rena (Fisch) and Robert Lewin, London

Identifying badges given to Goldie and Dov (Bernard) Yoseph, who served as members of the honor guard at Theodore Herzl's reburial ceremony in Jerusalem, 17 August 1949

Reburial ceremony for Theodore Herzl on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem, 17 August 1949; Artist: Ludwig Blum, Israeli, born Moravia, 1891–1974; Oil on canvas; Devorah Hermon Collection, Jerusalem

"The catastrophe which recently befell the Jewish people..."

Draft of government proposal to begin talks on reparations from Germany, 24 January 1950

Part of the court report in the handwriting of Judge Binyamin Halevi, recording the testimony of Dr. Rudolph (Rezsö) Kasztner in the case of the Attorney-General v. Malkiel Gruenwald, 18 February 1954; Nationwide controversy ensued when the former Hungarian Zionist was involved in a court case against Malkiel Gruenwald, who had accused him of collaborating with Nazis during World War II

Draft of a government proposal to allow the performance of German songs, 13 July 1959; As relations with West Germany and Austria improved, the official policy against German-language movies and performances began to relax

Video of the proceedings against Adolf Eichmann, April 12, 1961 – 14 August 1961; Filmed on 2 inch videotape

Opening page of memoirs by Adolf Eichmann, 1961; Written in German during and after his trial in Jerusalem and containing his personal history, and an account of his role in the Third Reich

The Trawniki Certificate, a key piece of evidence in the legal case attempting to prove John Demjanjuk was notorious Nazi criminal "Ivan the Terrible" of Treblinka, registered by the court on 21 April 1987

"...open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles..."

The Law of Return; This piece of legislation, passed by Israel's parliament on 5 July 1950, proclaimed the right of every Jew around the world to immigrate – make *aliyah* – to Israel

Page from the register of new immigrants recording the aliyah from January to June 1949 of Jews from Egypt, Czechoslovakia, England, Tunisia, Algeria, Poland, Germany, the USA, Switzerland, Canada, Morocco, and Greece

Yemenite immigrants at Lod Airport, 1949; Photographer: Teddy Brauner, Israeli, born Germany, active 1940–1960; Gelatin silver print; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Courtesy of the Government Press Office, Jerusalem

A selection of foreign passports belonging to new immigrants, from the period in which immigrants were required to exchange previous ID cards for their new Israeli ones

Letter to Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion written in February 1950 by two Yemenite immigrant carpet-dealers, asking for his assistance in recovering payments that were owed them before they left Yemen

A greeting card for the New Year (Rosh Hashanah) from a group of Jewish refugees from Kurdistan in an immigrant camp in Teheran; The card was sent to Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion in September 1950 as part of a campaign to receive assistance in bringing them to Israel; Ink on parchment

Classified telegram, containing orders for "Operation Solomon", 16 April 1991; In this operation some 15,000 Ethiopian Jews were brought to Israel in just a day and a half

Ethiopian immigrants in a military airplane on their way from Addis Ababa to Israel, 1991; Photographer: Natan Alpert; Chromogenic print; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Courtesy of the Government Press Office, Jerusalem

Proposal for action on behalf of Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Zion sent from MK Yitzhak Peretz (of the Labour party) to Prime Minister Shimon Peres, 9 July 1985

Telegram from David Stern, head of the contractors' association, to a government minister, requesting a national program to absorb new immigrants from the Soviet Union, 9 February 1987

"...created a thriving community..."

Recorded list of food ration distribution during the siege of Jerusalem, June – September 1948

Ration book including a provision for meat, a rarely available item, issued to Izhak Ben-Zvi during the *Tzena* (austerity) period, when many products were strictly rationed

Propaganda declaring war on the black market that developed in response to the austerity period rationing system, 8 October 1950; Designer Tal-Arieli, Agency for Design and Propaganda; Gouache on cardboard

Letter from Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, to the committee for naming Negev sites, insisting place names be taken from Hebrew historical sources rather than translations of Arabic names, 4 October 1949

Letter from Dr. Chaim Sheba, Director-General of the Ministry of Health, to the Prime Minister's Bureau, warning that the plan to drain Lake Hula might hamper efforts to wipe out malaria in Israel, 12 November 1951

A film produced by the publicity department of the Prime Minister's Office documenting the draining of Lake Hula, 1954; 16 mm

Car of President Izhak Ben-Zvi, leading his entourage, on the day he was sworn in as Israel's second president, 10 December 1952; Photograph: Government Press Office

Request for a state vehicle for President Izhak Ben-Zvi, as part of the process of formalizing diplomatic and administrative procedure, 25 November 1954

Documentary film about Argaman, one of a number of outposts in the Jordan Valley built by the *Nahal* (Fighting Pioneer Youth) units of the IDF, many of which later became functioning settlements, October 1968; Carmel Newsreels, Herzliya; United Studios

Letter to Prime Minister Golda Meir, from a group of families from

Kiryat Malahi requesting support for a new settlement in Dahab, in the Sinai, 4 August 1971

Letter from settler movement leader R. Moshe Levinger, requesting that army buildings in the vicinity of Hebron be converted to an absorption center for new immigrants, 10 May 1973

Page from notebook of Finance Minister Pinchas Sapir, 15–16 November 1973, with notations in preparation for an emergency fund-raising mission to the US in the wake of the Yom Kippur War

Handwritten note from MK Ariel Sharon, July 1974, suggesting a meeting between representatives of 75 families wanting to settle in Ma'aleh Adumim and Yisrael Galili, the minister responsible for settlement

A letter to Eliashib, commander of a fortress in southern Judea, asking him to give wine and flour to the *Kittiyim*; Tel Arad, 7th – 6th century BCE; Ink on pottery; Israel Antiquities Authority

Draft of a document written in preparation for a government decision to abolish currency control, 17 October 1977

"...complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants..."

Document signed by Government Secretary Ze'ev Sharef designating *Lehi* (Fighters for the Freedom of Israel, known as the Stern gang) and *Hazit Ha-Moledet* (Homeland Front) as terrorist organizations, following the murder of Swedish diplomat Count Bernadotte, 20 September 1948

Letter of protest regarding desecration of the Sabbath, from residents of a home for the elderly in Jerusalem to Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, 15 June 1949

Police report of a spontaneous communist rally against US Secretary of State Dulles, organized by MK Meir Vilner from the roof of a building in Jerusalem, 15 May 1953

Telegram from the leader of the Herut movement, Menachem Begin, thanking Prime Minister Levi Eshkol for the government decision to

bring the remains of Revisionist Zionist leader Ze'ev Jabotinsky to Israel for reburial, 15 March 1964

Draft of Stenographic record from a government meeting regarding the abolition of the system of military government used to control the Arab citizens of Israel, 6 November 1966

Classified police memo, recommending ways to covertly monitor the Israeli Black Panthers, a 1970s grassroots organization of citizens of Middle Eastern origin fighting discrimination, 4 March 1971

Request for information about the future of their settlement from the representative of residents of Di-Zahav (Dahab) in the Sinai to Prime Minister Menachem Begin, in response to the announcement of Israel's impending evacuation of the Sinai, 13 December 1978

Appeal for assistance on behalf of residents of an economically disadvantaged neighborhood in Lod sent to Prime Minister Shimon Peres by President Chaim Herzog, 15 January 1985

"...the eternal Book of Books..."

Page from the Aleppo Codex (2 Chron 35:7–36:19); Tiberias, Land of Israel, 10th century; Manuscript; ink on parchment;

This page, discovered in New York in 1981 and delivered to the Jewish National and University Library, was entrusted to the Ben-Zvi Institute and is exhibited here by decision of the Board of Trustees of the Aleppo Codex and the Small Codex

Proposal from various rabbis and representatives of the Aleppo Jewish community, together with representatives of the Ben-Zvi Institute, regarding the terms of a trust to preserve the community's manuscripts, 20 February 1958

Testimony of Mordecai Murad Faham, a Jew who smuggled the Aleppo Codex into Israel, recorded in writing by President Izhak Ben-Zvi, 7 October 1958

"...their spiritual, religious and political identity..."

Order signed by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and Minister of Justice Felix Rosenblueth establishing national days of rest, 3 June 1948

Rosh Hashanah prayers during the War of Independence; from the film "In Historic Days"; Production: Fox Movietone, with the help of the Information Bureau in the Prime Minister's Office, 1952

Druze from Israel meet with their families in the Golan Heights; Carmel Newsreels, Herzliya, 1968, United Studios

Memo from Yael Vered of the Prime Minister's Office on the status of Yiddish, in response to a proposal to pass a law to encourage the use of the Hebrew language, 9 July 1954

Request to some 50 Sages of Israel, prominent figures from the Jewish world, sent by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, for their ideas on defining Jewish identity in cases of children of interfaith marriages, 27 October 1958

Letter of response from author S. Y. Agnon, advocating defining Jewish identity according to Orthodox Judaism, 12 December 1958

Letter of response from author Haim Hazaz, supporting establishing the Jewish identity of a child according to the wishes of the parents in cases of interfaith unions, 8 December 1958

Letter of response from Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, 16 February 1959

Passover Seder night at Kibbutz Mishmar HaEmek, 1958; Nahum Tim Gidal, Israeli, born Germany, 1909–1996; Gelatin silver print; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Purchased with support from Gary B. Sokol, San Francisco; Karen Pritzker, San Francisco; Larry Ziklin, New Jersey; Dr. Joan Summers, New York

A letter signed by Yael Uzay, the acting Government Secretary, to the director-general of the Interior Ministry, clarifying the status of Arabic as an official national language in government offices, 5 February 1959

Letter sent during the Second Revolt against Rome from the leader of the Jewish rebel forces, known as Bar Kokhba, in which he requests that the Four Species used for Sukkot – *lulav* (date palm frond),

etrog (citron), *hadasim* (myrtle), and *aravot* (willow) – be sent to the Jewish army camp, evidently so that the holiday could be observed properly; Cave of the Letters, Judean Desert, time of the Second Jewish Revolt, 132-135 CE; Papyrus no. P. Yadin 57; Israel Antiquities Authority

"...created cultural values..."

Request for a grant for the Israeli Opera sent to Prime Minister Ben-Gurion, to enable them to revive the first original Hebrew opera, "Dan the Watchman" by Mark Lavry, 23 September 1948

Memo in response to Ben-Gurion's request to know how many children would be added to the school system by the enforcement of the Compulsory Education Law, 19 September 1949

Official report of the Frumkin Commission, 9 May 1950; The first state commission of inquiry investigated claims that new immigrants from Middle Eastern countries had been pressured to abandon their religious traditions

Proposal for the first broadcast program of Israel Army Radio, August 1950

Letter from archaeologist Yigael Yadin, ex-Chief of Staff of the IDF, informing the Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office, Teddy Kollek, that he had completed the purchase of some of the Dead Sea Scrolls in New York, end of 1954

Handwritten note by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion to the Director-General of his office, Teddy Kollek, with instructions to invite to every official party "first and foremost, authors, teachers [and artists]," (the last two words are erased), 1960

Memo containing concerns expressed by Arab countries about proposed broadcasts of Israel television, accompanied by clippings from the Arab press, from Foreign Minister Abba Eban to Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, 27 March 1966

Draft of a letter written by Rachel Yanait Ben-Zvi to the poet Uri Zvi Greenberg urging him to put pen to paper in memory of the late poet Nathan Alterman, 15 April 1970

"...the Holy Places of all religions..."

Proposal to establish Herzliya as the country's temporary capital, sent by local Herzliya leaders, suggesting the town serve as center for the government until the conflict in Jerusalem reached an end, 18 December 1947

Telegram from Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion to Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett, strongly opposing a UN proposal to internationalize Jerusalem or any form of foreign rule in the city, 4 December 1949

Stenographic minutes from a meeting of a cabinet committee on 6 June 1967 on the decision to send Israeli forces into the Old City of Jerusalem

Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's schedule for 7 June 1967, after the Israeli capture of East Jerusalem, including his visit to the Western Wall

Telegram from Sheikh Amin Tarif, leader of the Druze community in Israel, congratulating Prime Minister Levi Eshkol on the occasion of the liberation of Jerusalem, 8 June 1967

First Jewish wedding at the Western Wall after the reunification of the city, 6 June 1967; Wedding ceremony of Carol Robin and Tzur Ben-Yishai at the Western Wall; Photograph: Associated Press

Children at play in divided Jerusalem, before 1967; Photographer: Shabtai Tal, Government Press Office

The demolition of one of the walls dividing East and West Jerusalem, June 1967; Photographer: Eliahu Ross, Israeli, born China 1915–1985

Basic Law: Jerusalem, Capital of Israel, 30 July 1980, signed by Prime Minister Menachem Begin and President Yitzhak Navon; Establishing a united Jerusalem as the seat of government and protecting the city's holy places, this law sparked international protest

"...their ancient homeland..."

Map of the Holy Land, according to its division among the tribes; Christian van Adrichom, Dutch, 1533–1585; Hand-colored engraving and etching, ca. 1585; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Gift of Adam Mekler, Los Angeles, in honor of Ariel Gabriella Mekler

The "Green Line": Section of a map of armistice lines with Jordan, part of a secret agreement between King Abdallah of Jordan and Israel, with handwritten notations, signed by representatives of Israel Yigael Yadin and Walter Eytan and representative of Jordan Charles Coaker, 23 March 1949; Topographical map of Israel in nine sections on a scale of 1:100.000 prepared by the cartographic department of the mandatory government of Palestine, June-July 1946

"...loving peace..."

Signed copies of the armistice agreements between the State of Israel and neighboring countries; between Israel and Egypt, 24 February 1949; between Israel and Lebanon, 23 March 1949; between Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 3 April 1949; between Israel and Syria, 20 July 1949

Memo from the Middle East division of the Foreign Affairs Ministry containing points for discussion in preparation for Egyptian President Anwar El Sadat's visit to Israel, 17 November 1977

Telegram from the Foreign Ministry to Israeli representatives around the world, with news of reactions in the Arab world to President Sadat's forthcoming visit to Israel, 18 November 1977

President Anwar El-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, 1977; *Sha'at Ratzon*; Director: Micah Shagrir, Production: Yigal Efrati, Yehuda Shneidman, Israeli Film Service; 49 mins

Original copy of the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt signed by Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Egyptian President Anwar El-Sadat and US President Jimmy Carter in Washington, 26 March 1979

Letter signed by Chairman Yasser Arafat to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in which the PLO recognized the right of Israel to exist in peace and security and undertook to continue the peace process and to delete passages from the Palestinian Covenant denying Israel's right to exist, 9 September 1993

Document by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, 26 July 1994, authenticating the original copy of the Washington Declaration which ended the state of war between Israel and Jordan, signed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, King Hussein of Jordan and US President Bill Clinton, 25 July 1994

Gold-plated Parker pen with seal of the Hashemite kingdom with which King Hussein signed the Washington Declaration, 25 July 1994; Entrusted to the Israel State Archives by key Israeli negotiator, the Government Secretary Elyakim Rubinstein (later a Supreme Court judge)

Shir LaShalom (Song for Peace) Lyrics, found in Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's jacket pocket after he was assassinated at a peace rally in Tel Aviv, 4 November 1995; Lyrics of Song for Peace: Ya'acov Rotblit; Music: Yair Rosenblum

"...but knowing how to defend itself..."

This letter, discovered in the ruins of Lachish, relates that the torches of the neighboring town, Azeqah, were extinguished, meaning that it had been captured by the Babylonian army. Lachish itself was conquered shortly thereafter, and in the same year Jerusalem was taken and the First Temple destroyed. These events are also described in Jeremiah 34:6; Tel Lachish, 586 BCE; Ink on pottery; Israel Antiquities Authority

Letter sent by parents of Israelis held captive in Jordan to David-Zvi Pinkas, the chairman of the defense committee of the Provisional State Council, appealing for help for their sons with the approach of winter, 10 October 1948

The Sinai Campaign, 1956; Photographer: Avraham Vered, Israeli, born Lithuania 1923; Gelatin silver print; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Courtesy of *Bamahaneh*, IDF weekly

Handwritten note by Foreign Minister Abba Eban passed to Prime Minister Golda Meir hours after terrorists from the "Black September" organization took Israeli athletes hostage in the Olympic village in Munich, 5 September 1972

Telegram from Yehuda Milo, of the Israeli embassy in Bonn, reporting on the decision of the International Olympic Committee and the German Minister of the Interior not to stop the Olympic Games after members of the "Black September" terrorist group had killed two Israeli athletes and were holding nine others hostage, 5 September 1972

Official notes from a political-military strategy meeting in Jerusalem three days before the start of the Yom Kippur War, 3 October 1973

"...a fully privileged member of the comity of nations"

Letter from President of Argentina Juan Perón informing President Chaim Weizmann of his reelection to a second term, 18 July 1952

Protest Note from Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Bulganin to David Ben-Gurion in the wake of the Sinai Campaign, informing him of the official closure of the Soviet embassy in Israel, 5 November 1956

Letter from Queen Elizabeth II to President Zalman Shazar informing him of the return of the British Ambassador Michael Hadow, 13 January 1969

Letter from Emperor Hirohito of Japan sent at the end of the term of service of Japanese Ambassador to Israel Kazuhide Komuru, 24 September 1976

Credentials of Dr. Saad Murtada, first Egyptian ambassador in Israel, presented to President Yitzhak Navon, 26 March 1980

Letter from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam to President Chaim Herzog, containing credentials for the Ethiopian ambassador in Israel, 14 May 1990

Credentials of Archbishop Pietro Sambì, Apostolic Nuncio in Israel, sent by Pope John Paul II to President Ezer Weizman, 1 July 1998

Miraculous Discoveries

Report of the discovery of the remains of Avshalom Feinberg in the Sinai desert accompanied by photographs, 15 November 1967; Deposited in the Israel State Archives by the late Shlomo Ben-Elkanah

Page from the diary of Ilan Ramon, first Israeli astronaut, killed in the explosion of the space shuttle Columbia, 1 February 2003; Pencil on paper; On loan from Rona Ramon, Tel Aviv

Page from the diary of Ilan Ramon with the Friday night Kiddush blessing, February 2003; Felt-tip pen on paper; On loan from Rona Ramon, Tel Aviv

Deciphering of Kiddush blessing from the diary of Ilan Ramon; Deciphered by Sharon Brown, Superintendent, Questioned Documents Laboratory, Division of Identification and Forensic Science, Israel Police; Photography: Laser Sin-David, Superintendent, Photography Laboratory, Division of Identification and Forensic Science, Israel Police

Remains of Ilan Ramon's diary found in an open field in Texas two months after the explosion, April 2003; Photograph: © Volunteers from NASA search team