

A. 72FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1963

His Excellency ³ Gershon Avner presented to His Excellency the Governor-General his Letter of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Israel in a ceremony which took place at Government House today. The Chief of Protocol, Mr. Henry F. Davis, presented the Ambassador to His Excellency the Governor-General.

Mr. Max Wershof, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Mr. Esmond Butler, Secretary to the Governor-General, were in attendance on the Governor-General on this occasion.

Mr. Avner was born in 1919. He is a graduate of the Hebrew Secondary School in Haifa, Palestine, and attended Oxford University where he received Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in Political and Economic Sciences. From 1942 to 1948 Mr. Avner held important positions with the Jewish Agency for Palestine in London and in Jerusalem. Since joining the diplomatic service, His Excellency has served in Budapest, Sofia and London. Between these postings Mr. Avner was, in turn, Director of the West-European and of the United States of America Divisions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1961 he was attached to the Israeli Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly and in 1962 was appointed Ambassador of Israel to Norway.

Mr. Avner is married and has three children.