

Ogden Reid Becomes National Hero To People of Israel

Tel Aviv, Israel — (UPI) — A six-year-old American boy is picking up Hebrew from playmates in his backyard.

His older brother, aged nine, is teaching his Israeli friends a new game called baseball.

These boys are involved in the same job as their father. He is Ogden Reid, United States Ambassador to Israel.

In less than six months on the job "Browie" Reid has become somewhat of a hero throughout Israel. He has visited more parts of this country than the average Israeli. He is studying Hebrew. He is a familiar figure at those favorite Israeli occasions of laying cornerstones and planting trees.

Reid, 33, is known here as "The Handsome American," far removed from the bungling U.S. envoy portrayed in the best-selling novel, "The Ugly American."

Political Reason Claimed

The U.S. Senate confirmed Reid's appointment only after bitter wrangling. Critics claimed he was appointed for political reasons and was not capable of representing U.S. interests in the touchy Near East.

Reid is the scion of a wealthy Republican family and former editor of the New York Herald Tribune. President Eisenhower named him to succeed Edward B. Lawson, a career diplomat who had safely steered American-Israel relations through the Suez crisis of 1956.

Most Israeli newspapers carried a blow-by-blow account of the battle over Reid's confirmation in Washington, and when the new ambassador arrived last June he was already a public figure here.

Israelis had come to admire his bold yet modest stand under fire from skilled politicians twice his age on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He became known as a young man who could be subtle while being honest.

Public Occasion

The normally routine ceremony of presenting credentials to President Yizhaq Ben Zvi became a public occasion when Reid visited the President's house two days after his arrival in Jerusalem.

Hundreds of Israelis gathered outside to cheer the young ambassador. Reid promptly broke precedent by stopping to chat with guards and delivered an impromptu address to the crowd.

Since then, he has established a busy routine on both the official and social levels. He is at his desk by 8:30 every morning and usually spends his free evenings reading up on Israeli history and the intricacies of a political situation that put candidates of 24 different parties on the ballot in the recent general election.

"I don't discuss politics with the people I meet. I let them do the talking," he says.

Reid believes his role is not far removed from that of a newspaperman. "I see my job as that of a reporter, finding out what goes on, what people are thinking and then telling my government."

At the same time, he must communicate the American point of view to the citizens of this country. He has served as patron of performances of Jerome Robbins' "Ballet U.S.A." and opened a show of contemporary American art.

The ambassador has the assistance of a charming and intelligent wife and three lively sons.

Stewart, 9, and Michael, 6, attend a local school in the suburb of Ramat Gan and take extra lessons in Hebrew. Stewart has organized a baseball team in the neighborhood.

While the older son is teaching the great American pastime to Israeli boys, they've added to his interests, too. He has been swept along by Israel's craze for archaeology, and goes out looking for "finds" from the long history of this Biblical land.

DANCE CREATOR DIES

London — (UPI) — Lupino Lane, 67, who created the "Lambeth Walk" dance and performed it in 1,550 consecutive performances of a show, died Tuesday night.

Section A
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MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1959
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REID ISRAELI HERO — U.S. Ambassador to Israel and Mrs. Ogden Reid are shown with two of their three sons, Michael, 6 (right), and William, 3, at their home in the embassy at Tel Aviv. In less than six months on the job Reid has become somewhat of a national hero throughout Israel. (UPI Telephoto)

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