

Harel quits as Premier's adviser on security matters

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Mr. Isser Harel, adviser on security affairs to the Prime Minister and the former Head of the Security Services, has resigned. Mr. Eshkol has accepted the resignation "with regret", officials of the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday.

Mr. Harel had indicated his intention of resigning on various occasions, recently over what is understood to have been his feeling that he had too little authority in the field of security affairs.

Mr. Harel submitted his resignation in person at a five-minute meeting in Mr. Eshkol's office on Tuesday afternoon. According to officials, Mr. Harel has since then not returned to his office and had apparently terminated his work there and then.

The Government Press Office late last night issued a brief communique on behalf of the Prime Minister's Office stating: "The Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Mr. Levi Eshkol, yesterday (Wednesday) accepted the resignation of Mr. Isser Harel, his General Adviser. The resignation took effect yesterday.

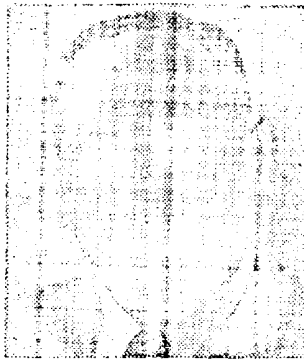
A previous intended resignation by Mr. Harel was averted on the day the Prime Minister left for Africa, a month ago. That day, officials in the Prime Minister's Of-

ice said that after a meeting with Mr. Eshkol, Mr. Harel had agreed to continue and that mutual agreement had been reached on Mr. Harel's scope of authority. Since then, Mr. Harel is said to have claimed that the agreed arrangement had never been put into effect.

Mr. Harel, whose official title had been General Adviser to the Prime Minister, assumed the post last October, just before the general elections. Prior to this appointment, he had been engaged in a private contracting company, after his termination as Head of Security Services resulting from differences with the then Prime Minister, Mr. Ben-Gurion, on policy regarding German scientists working in Egypt.

In his latest post as Adviser, Mr. Harel's assignments had included a reappraisal of Military Government; population dispersal, and other matters.

Officials in the P.M.'s Office were last night unable to say when or whether a successor to Mr. Harel would be appointed.



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