Palestine Perspectives

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SPECIAL REPORT:
THE LAND OF PALESTINE

Editorial Editorial Editorial

BIGOTRY BOOMERANGS

In its most recent annual conference, in April 1986, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) adopted a strategy designed to complete the process of fully implicating the U.S. government in Israel's war on the Arabs, to involve the U.S. in Israel's effort to obliterate the Palestinians, and to cause an irrevocable break in Arab-American relations. In its policy statement for 1986, in which it outlined its political objectives for the coming year, the Zionist lobby was not content with seeking American support for Israel, but it was equally concerned with policies calculated to poison U.S. relations with the Arab world. For the Zionist lobby, and for the Jewish state which it serves, U.S.-Arab antagonism is the other side of the coin of U.S.-Israeli cooperation.

The fact that Zionist groups in America are dedicated to the service of Israel's ambitions by securing substantial and unconditional U.S. financial, economic, military, political and diplomatic support is well known. What is less familiar is the fact that they also serve Israel (or think they do) by stirring up conflict between America and the Arabs. The two objectives are perceived by the Zionists as complimentary and mutually supportive, and they pursue them with equal zeal.

Israeli efforts to poison Arab-American relations are as old as Israel. In the 1950s, for example, the Israeli government plotted to undermine U.S.-Egyptian relations by having Israeli and Egyptian Jewish agents blow up American commercial and cultural establishments in Egypt. The apprehension of the criminals involved and their subsequent confession caused a government crisis in Israel, which became known as the "Lavon Affair." That was one of the early examples of what is now called "state-supported terrorism" by Israel. The U.S., needless to say did not bomb Tel Aviv and did not stop its assistance to Israel for one minute.

The most recent Zionist effort to sabotage U.S.-Arab relations is the ongoing AIPAC-inspired campaign to unleash a witch-hunt against the Palestinians in America. The call to declare the PLO a criminal organization, to indict PLO Chairman Arafat for alleged terrorist acts, and to close Palestinian offices in Washington and New York are intended as the opening salvos in a new McCarthy era in America.

The Zionists and their friends in Congress are taking advantage of a backlash against the frustrations of the Vietnam trauma to encourage bigotry and disrespect for human and civil rights. In the short run, they may succeed and many Palestinians and other Arabs may suffer. In the long run, the main victim is bound to be American democracy.

The Zionists should know that they have been principal beneficiary of tolerance, democracy and civil rights in America. And, as we have said more than once before, bigotry—like justice—is blind. It moves on an erratic and unpredictable course, and often it even boomerangs.

All Americans who care for what distinguishes America must stand up to any efforts to prostitute its soul for the sake of political expediency. American Jews in particular ought to be concerned about the health of American liberty. It is not only the right thing to do; but time will show that it is also the wise thing to do. □

M. Hallaj

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JUST LEAVE US ALONE

Khalil Touma

[There was a time when Israel led the world to believe that the Palestine question was a figment of Arab imagination, or at most a question of refugees. In the 1970s, the world community began to see through this myth and to understand that it was a question of decolonization and national self-determination.

Israel is now trying again to obfuscate the issue, and it wants Palestinian struggle for national rights to be seen as a question of economic relief in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. It has talked the U.S. government into allocating some funds for what it calls "improving the quality of life" in the occupied territories, while it continues to threaten the quality of life by ruling with an "iron fist" and by confiscating the people's means of subsistence.

In the following article, taken from the Jerusalem-based Palestinian weekly ***Al-Fajr,*** *Khalil Touma voices a widespread Palestinian attitude toward Israel's hypocritical concern for the people in the occupied territories—**Editor**]:*

No one wants to believe that we, Palestinians, don't want our lives under occupation improved. The originator of the idea—the Israeli government, who has apparently all of a sudden felt an acute sense of guilt—finds our refusal of the notion most difficult to believe.

This Israeli guilt, however, is not a good omen. Such feelings, in this present stone age in which we are living, usually come only at the end of one's days, when one fears the inevitable approaching judgment. What indeed has happened? Our lands are being confiscated, our houses destroyed, our men deported and yet we have smiled and stood firm, choosing instead to die like this, with the feeling that we have been part of a thrilling drama for nearly 40 years. And now they talk about improving our life! Is this an indirect confession that our lives have become so bad and our suffering so much less bearable by the Israelis themselves that they feel sorry for us? But, why now? Should it really have taken their conscience so long to wake up?

We don't want our lives improved under occupation, for God's sake. Just leave us alone. We refuse to go to heaven chained with your golden fetters. Ask the residents in the 28 refugee camps in the occupied territories from Khan Yunis in the south to Dheisheh and its sisters in the north, those who enjoy their splendid nights on the beaches of the open sewage canals in the alleys of their camps, if they accept your offer. They surely don't. Their misery has become a part of them. So save your money for something more fruitful. You have lots of projects to foster—star wars programs, Lavi jet fighters, military picnics in Lebanon and possibly to Amman and Mecca. So why worry about us?

Having heard the reports of the Israeli premier's most kind and thoughtful requests for aid, which he took the trouble to submit to the White House personally on our behalf, we have to say that we were deeply touched by such sincere sentiments. No Arab country has ever thought to ask the West to invest as much as 28 billion dollars in the development of Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and the West Bank. So, such a request made by one considered our enemy makes us change our minds. We must have been misinformed about the real intent of Israeli policy and we must have been very ungrateful as well. To such sincere guardians, one would offer his soul. So why have we been making such a big fuss about confiscating only some 50 percent of our land? Now with this new situation, we must offer them the remaining 50 on a silver platter, just like the head of that poor prophet. The Marshall-Peres plan of multi-billion dollar aid to us and our brethren proposed by the Israeli leader should be a turning point in our way of thinking.

But, even considering this, and despite our sincere gratitude, we still don't want our lives improved. We can assure the Israelis however that we will continue to live with them and will never emigrate or run away. We like our cage, be it golden or wooden, with the 28 billion or without. So let them save themselves the trouble. They don't have to pay our dowry to the neighboring brethren though it made us very happy to know that we are valued so highly in the Western stock exchange.

If the dear Israelis aren't satisfied with this, and are still afraid that our lives will deteriorate into an untimely death, something that may cause them embarrassment and dismay or aggravate their sense of guilt, then why don't they move back behind the fence of 1967, which can still be detected with some effort, and leave us to bear our wounds and suffering all alone and try our luck by ourselves? □



Poster by Palestinian artist Suleiman Mansour

Arab Higher Committee for Palestine
Correspondence Division, Cairo
27 Rabi' El-Akher, 1367
(8 March 1948)

His Excellency
The Prime Minister of Egypt, Cairo

With compliments. The Arab Higher Committee for Palestine has the honor to submit to your government the following:

In view of the events which are now taking place in Palestine, certain of the Arab inhabitants have begun to leave the country for the neighboring Arab states. This exodus will adversely affect the national movement, reflect badly on the Palestine Arabs, and create conditions which will weaken Arab morale in adjacent Arab territories in their defense of Palestine. Furthermore, the behavior of some of these people has been the subject of criticism and complaint in the adjoining countries.

The Arab Higher Committee has studied this serious question and has resolved that it is in the interests of Palestine that no Palestinian should be permitted to leave the country except under special circumstances, such as for political, commercial or extreme health reasons. Such reasons will be decided upon by the Arab Higher Committee in consultation with the Local Committees of the various Palestinian towns and will be presented to your Government's consular officers in Palestine before visas are issued. The Arab Higher Committee requests from your Government the issue of the necessary instructions to your consulates in Palestine to assist us in this respect.

There are at present time resident in the adjacent Arab countries a number of Palestinians who left Palestine as soon as Arab defense operations commenced. ***The national interest demands that these persons should return to Palestine*** to carry out their obligations according to their abilities and each in his own sphere. Your Government has graciously permitted these persons to stay in the country, and while it appreciates and thanks the Government for its consideration toward them, the Arab Higher Committee requests that their residence permits should not be renewed and that they should be returned to Palestine, except in cases where it is found that there are health or other extenuating circumstances for them to stay, in which event the approval of the Arab Higher Committee in Cairo or Jerusalem must first be sought. The Arab Higher Committee is prepared to assist the responsible Departments of your Government in investigating the conditions of Palestinians resident in your country.

With respects, etc.

Mohammad Amin El-Husseini
Chairman
Arab Higher Committee

(Note: Similar letters were sent to the governments of adjacent Arab states.)

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THE MYTH WITH

THE ORIGIN OF THE REFUGEE PROBLEM

One of the most widespread and enduring Zionist myths about the origin of the Palestine problem—especially the refugee tragedy—is that the Palestinians were not forcibly expelled by the Israelis in 1948, but they left their homeland voluntarily. According to the well-publicized Zionist myth, the Palestinians were asked by their leaders to leave their homes in order to make way for the Arab armies.

Although this myth has been debunked repeatedly over the years, the Zionists never tire of repeating it, and they managed to make it "a well-known fact," especially in the United States. The fact, of course, is that the Palestinians—who came to be known as "the Arab refugees"—were forcibly cleared out of the country in 1948 as a part of the process of transforming Palestine into Israel.

Erskine Childers was the first European writer to expose this Zionist myth. He had asked the Israelis to produce the evidence—which they always claimed that they had—that the Palestinians left their country because their leaders asked them to do so. He was invited to Israel to see the evidence, but after a long stay during which he was given the runaround by the Israelis, he concluded that he was not shown any evidence because the Israelis did not have any to show him.

Childers continued his research into the origins of the Palestinian refugee problem. He discovered tapes of Middle East radio broadcasts in the British Museum in London and spent days listening to them. He found no evidence that Arab leaders appealed to the Palestinians to leave, as the Israelis claimed, but he heard many broadcasts of appeals to the Palestinian population to stay put and not leave the country. His findings were published fifteen years ago in the British magazine *The Spectator*.

The truth about the refugee problem is the exact opposite of what the Zionists always claimed it was. Palestinian leaders were highly disturbed by the departure of Palestinians from the country to spare their families the dangers of war. They not only appealed to the civilian population to stay in their homes, but they tried to convince the surrounding Arab countries to which Palestinians were going for refuge not to allow any Palestinians to settle in these countries. One such letter from Haj Amin Al-Husseini, the most prominent Palestinian leader at the time, urged the Egyptian government not to allow Palestinians to stay in Egypt except for essential need such as medical care. **[See box]**

In spite of all the evidence to the contrary, Zionist mythmakers continued to claim that the problem of Palestinian refugees was self-inflicted. The reason, of course, is that the Zionists want to evade responsibility for the problem of Palestinian homelessness, and to justify Israel's refusal to allow the Palestinian refugees to return to their country, which it still does.

Now, the truth about the origin of the refugee problem is coming out in a way which makes Zionist responsibility undeniable. An Israeli researcher, Dr. Benny Morris, has uncovered secret Israeli intelligence documents dating to 1948, which clearly admit that most of the Palestinian

THE SEVEN LIVES

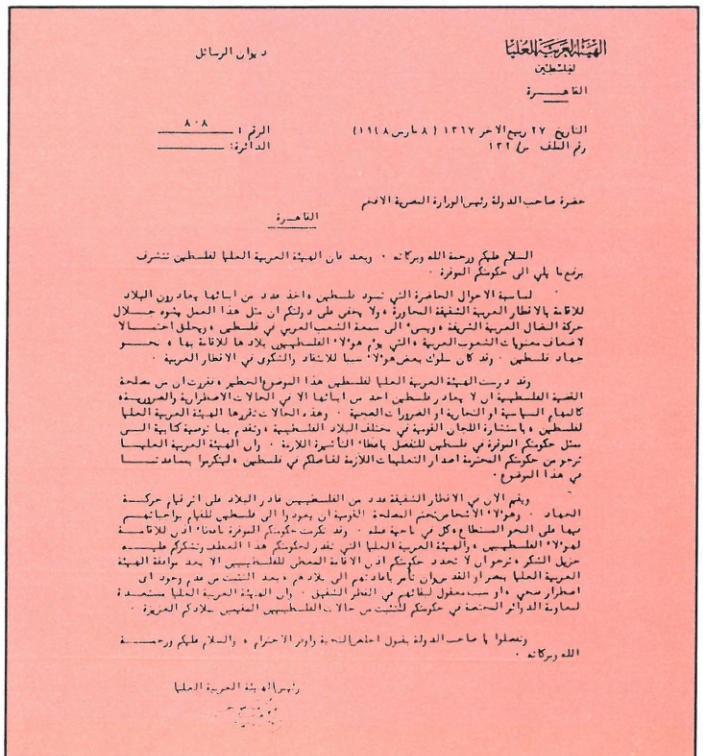
refugees were forced to leave their country due to Zionist military actions and outright expulsion. He published some of his findigs in the *Middle Eastern Studies* journal which is published in England (volume 22, no. 1/January 1986). Dr. Morris will publish a book-length study next year.

In his study, Dr. Morris attributes 70 percent of the Palestinian flight from Palestine in 1948 to military acts of the Zionist forces. Among the methods used to expel the Palestinians, listed in the secret Israeli document, Dr. Morris found the following:

- Direct, hostile Jewish military operations against Arab towns and villages.
- Psychological warfare aimed at frightening away Arab inhabitants.
- Expulsion orders by Jewish forces.

Morris has found himself the object of a widespread hate campaign in Israel because of his role in exposing the Zionist myth that the Palestinians were forced to leave their country. It is not likely that his discovery, even though it is irrefutable evidence of Israeli guilt in the creation of the refugee problem, would put an end to this particular myth. The Zionists need it too much to let go of it, and they are loyal practitioners of the philosophy which says: "My mind is made up; don't confuse me with facts."

M. Hallaj



[Photocopy of original Arabic document and English translation in Robert John and Sami Hadawi, **The Palestine Diary,** *volume II, published by the New World Press, New York, 1970, pp. 383 and 384]*

HISTORIAN SHATTERS EXODUS MYTH

Ian Black

A young Israeli scholar has driven a coach and horses through the traditional Zionist explanation of the creation of the Palestinian refugee problem with his discovery of a contemporary classified intelligence document assessing that 70 per cent of the first wave of the great Arab exodus in 1948 resulted from Jewish military action.

The document, a secret Israeli army intelligence report dated June 30, 1948, goes out of its way to point out that the mass flight was against the wishes of Palestinian leaders and neighboring Arab states which invaded the newly created Jewish state as it became independent.

Some 400,000 Palestinians fled the country between November 29, 1947—the date of the UN resolution partitioning the country into separate Jewish and Arab states—and June 1, 1948. A similar number left before the end of the war later that year.

For almost four decades, the official Israeli explanation of the exodus has been that the Palestinians were told to leave by their own leaders and by other Arab countries to justify the subsequent invasion and physically to clear the ground for it. But the 1948 report, which gives a detailed analysis of the reasons for the flight of an estimated 400,000 people by June 1, does not mention any such instructions.

Dr. Benny Morris, the historian who found the controversial document in a private archive, plans to publish his overall conclusions in a book next year. But he has already encountered hostility over his findings from other Israeli scholars and members of the public. The switchboard of the state-run television was jammed with complaints from viewers after he appeared on a television chat show this week to describe his work.

Dr. Morris believes that the story of Arab radio broadcasts ordering or asking Palestinians to leave their homes originally arose because of a misunderstanding, and solidified over the years, into a convenient myth that became the basis of subsequent Israeli propaganda.

Israeli intelligence did monitor Arab broadcasts describing the situation in the country, especially after the massacre of 250 Palestinians in the village of Deir Yassin, near Jerusalem in April 1948. These broadcasts were intended to encourage revenge against the Jews, but in fact had the opposite effect of undermining Arab morale.

The 1948 report says that of the 70 percent contribution of Jewish military action to the first stage of the Arab exodus, 15 percent was caused by dissident Jewish terrorist gangs like the underground Irgun—responsible for Deir Yassin—and the Stern gang, and 55 percent by official and approved operations by the pre-state Hagana organization and by the fledgling Israeli army.

Other historians of the period have argued that one report cannot be the basis for a radically new interpretation of the events of 1948. But Dr. Morris points out that the intelligence paper is only one of thousands of contemporary documents he has seen in the course of several years of research and that it is both authentic and convincing in its own right, as well as in the context of other so far unpublished evidence.

"People's minds have been warped by 40 years of nonsense," he says. He has little choice but to resign himself to further controversy because of the highly delicate nature of the subject.

"The Palestinian problem is the core of the Middle East

(continued on page 5)

FORUM

THE MYTH *(continued from page 4)*

conflict, and at the core of that is the question of how it was created," Dr. Morris said. "In explaining how it was created, one can arrive at one of two interpretations of Zionism—that is why the subject of the exodus is so sensitive.

"If one accepts the Arab version, one says that Zionism was always a conspiracy to eject the people of Palestine from their land—and that's why the fact of the exodus is at the core of their understanding of Zionism.

"For Jews, on the other hand, if the exodus was not their fault, they emerge as unsullied by the war. But if the very act of creation [of Israel] was sullied, then the whole enterprise is tainted."

The intelligence report goes a long way to undermining the official Israeli historiography about this crucial period. But it does not, Dr. Morris notes in a recent article, uphold the traditional Arab view that the Jews, with premeditation and in a centralized and systematic fashion, waged a campaign aimed at the wholesale expulsion of the native Palestinian population. But that, of course, was more or less the final result of a war whose consequences the world is still living with today. □

[Reprinted from the ***Manchester Guardian Weekly,*** 23 March 1986]

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"QUOTE UNQUOTE"

"I applaud and take part in the protests against apartheid in South Africa, yet there is a similar kind of oppression and apartheid going on in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by the Israelis that neither gets reported nor investigated by anybody either in politics or in the press."

James Abourezk
City Paper (Washington)
Mar 28-Apr 3, 1986

"Israel's conquest of the West Bank, Gaza, and Golan Heights was done largely with American weapons. The invasion of Lebanon was built on American economic and military aid. The air attacks on Baghdad and Tunis were done with American-built bombers.

Without American weapons and the annual economic subsidy, Israel could exist only by coming to terms with its Arab neighbors. Its future would have to be built on Arab consent, not on American weapons. Such a peace would draw the fire out from under Arab resentment and from Arab acts of violence against Israel, and Americans."

Joseph C. Harsch
The Christian Science Monitor
8 April 1986

"At the least, the administration needs a full-dress campaign to change the anti-Arab stereotype that dominates American politics. Beyond that, what is really required are policy changes nowhere visible on today's horizon."

Evans and Novak
Washington Post
30 April 1986

"If Labor's leaders were really concerned about the present deadlock, they would try to break it at the one point where it would make a difference: on the question of Palestinian representation."

Asher Marriv
The Jerusalem Post (Israel)
13 January 1986

"If Shimon Peres, as both Alignment chairman and Israel's prime minister, really does desire peace, then he must recognize the Palestinian people and their right to sovereignty."

Shulamit Aloni
Knesset Member
Yedi'ot Aharonot (Israel)
5 February 1986

"If there is a deadlock, Arafat is not to blame; Israel is, for not willing to accept the basic fact that no progress will be made in the political process without Arafat and the PLO."

Uzi Mahnaimi
Al-Hamishmar (Israel)
14 February 1986

THE PLO:
A NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT

It Runs Hospitals, Gives Scholarships and Foreign Aid

PLO News and Views

Israel's failure to obliterate the Palestine question by destroying the PLO—most recently through a massive military invasion of Lebanon—has prompted it to seek alternative means to the same ends. It tried to find collaborators in the occupied territories to pose as representatives of the Palestinian people. Such efforts also failed, because no credible Palestinian would conspire against his people's rights and liberty.

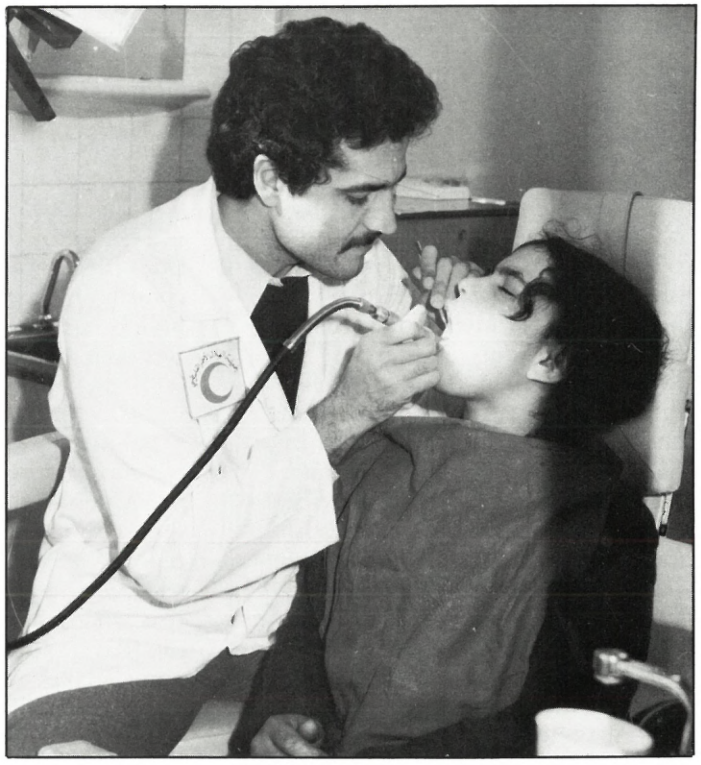
During the past few months, Israel has been working to involve the United States government in its fight with the Palestinians. It moved beyond its traditional policy of seeking American support for Israel, and began to push for total U.S. complicity in its assault against the Palestinian people.

The recent Zionist attempt to achieve a "final solution" to the Palestine question, requires—among other things—that Palestinian national aspirations be denied and delegitimized, and that the U.S. be made a full partner in this policy. Ongoing congressional efforts—inspired by the Zionist lobby's recent powwow in Washington—to declare the PLO a terrorist organization are at the heart of this Israeli drive.

The PLO is not only an authentic national liberation movement entitled, like all national liberation movements, to struggle for the national rights of its constituency, but it is even more than that. It is the Palestinian people's instrument for nation-building; it is their means to reconstitute a nation which has been dispossessed, shattered, and displaced as a result of the Zionist usurpation of Palestine. Most of the PLO's energies and resources—material and human—have nothing to do with military activity. The PLO is essentially a Palestinian government in exile which caters to the civilian needs of more than four million Palestinians scattered and forced to live in exile around the world.

The PLO maintains and operates schools for Palestinian children. It maintains and operates hospitals and clinics to serve the health needs of the Palestinian people. It trains nurses and medical technicians. It gives student scholarships. It has factories and workshops which produce affordable goods for destitute refugees and give them the opportunity to learn industrial skills and lead useful and productive lives. The PLO has research centers and libraries. It sponsors and encourages writers and artists. It has programs to fight illiteracy. It educates expectant mothers and cares for infants. And it operates a variety of other humanitarian programs for the welfare and well-being of a forgotten people. The PLO even has a technical assistance program to "less developed countries." Through its economic agency, SAMED, the PLO has model farms in several African countries where Palestinian agricultural experts introduce new crops and teach modern farming techniques.

In addition to the objective of caring for the needs of the Palestinian people, the PLO maintains extensive civilian programs and services to help prepare the Palestinian people for self-government. The experience of many third world countries demonstrated that the erstwhile colonial regimes in Asia and Africa failed to prepare the colonial peoples educationally, economically or politically for independence. As a result, many third world societies went through upheavals as they tried to shoulder the burdens of national independence. The PLO has done more than any other national liberation movement to ensure that the Palestinian people reach independence fully prepared to be a responsible and constructive member of the community of nations.



PLO clinic

The slanderous campaign against the PLO is designed, among other things, to conceal this positive achievement of the PLO and the Palestinian people. Portraying the PLO as a terrorist organization not only distorts its struggle on behalf of Palestinian freedom, but it also detracts from its humanitarian achievements on behalf of a dispossessed and oppressed people.

The United States government allocates considerable resources to help third world societies achieve stability and democracy through meeting the social and economic needs of their peoples. The PLO is doing that for the Palestinian people, and it is not in anyone's interest (the Palestinians, the U.S. or even Israel) to cripple one of the most democratic and enlightened national liberation movements.

Voltaire once said: "Those who can make you believe absurdities, can make you commit atrocities." The Zionist blood libel against the Palestinian people and the PLO is intended to encourage a blood bath against them. □

Life Under Occupation

SPECIAL REPORT

THE LAND OF PALESTINE

In May 1948, one of the most ancient countries of the world, and one of the most celebrated, disappeared. Palestine became Israel.

It happened through an act of armed seizure and conquest. The Jewish minority—consisting mostly of recent immigrants—forcefully seized about 78 percent of the country from its indigenous Arab inhabitants and expelled most of them. They became known to the world as the "Arab refugees."

In order to deny the Palestinians right to resist this usurpation of their homeland, and to delegitimize that struggle, the Israelis and their Zionist friends around the world denied the existence of the Palestinian people and victimized them with a blood libel called "terrorism." In 1967, the Israelis seized the remnants of Palestine, making the Palestinians a totally dispossessed and homeless people.

Zionist rewriting of history labels this act of national dispossession "Israel's War of Independence." This gives the false impression that there was an Israel which, like scores of other countries achieved independence from foreign rule in 1948. But Israel was an imposition of foreign rule rather than an act of liberation from it.

Zionist mythology not only denies the existence of the Palestinian people, but it also seeks to obliterate the identity of the country itself. It is now repeating that performance in the Palestinian territories it occupied in 1967 by giving them non-Palestinian names.

The following report on Palestine, the place, is part of a forthcoming information paper which will be published by the Palestine Research and Educational Center.

Size and Location

Palestine is the home of humanity's most famous sites which figure prominently in the world's religions, songs and legends. It is the place where Jerusalem is, and Jericho and Bethlehem and Nazareth. It is where the Sea of Galilee is and the River Jordan. Palestine's big name makes it easy to forget how small it actually is. It is only 10,000 square miles, slightly larger than the state of Vermont.

Palestine has common borders with four other countries. Lebanon borders it on the north, Syria on the northeast, Jordan on the East, and Egypt on the south. Palestine's western border is the Mediterranean Sea.

Palestine is the southwestern edge of Asia. It is Asia's land link with the African continent, and it faces Europe across the Mediterranean. It is where the three continents of the old world meet, and in that sense it is the center of the world as it was known until relatively recent times.

This central location was a blessing as well as a curse for Palestine and its people throughout history. Palestine became a major route for international trade and a meeting ground for the cultures of the world. But also it often became a battlefield where many of history's decisive battles were fought. For example, it was in the Palestinian city of 'Akka (Acre) that Napoleon's drive to the east was halted, when his long siege of the city failed and he had to turn back.

Terrain

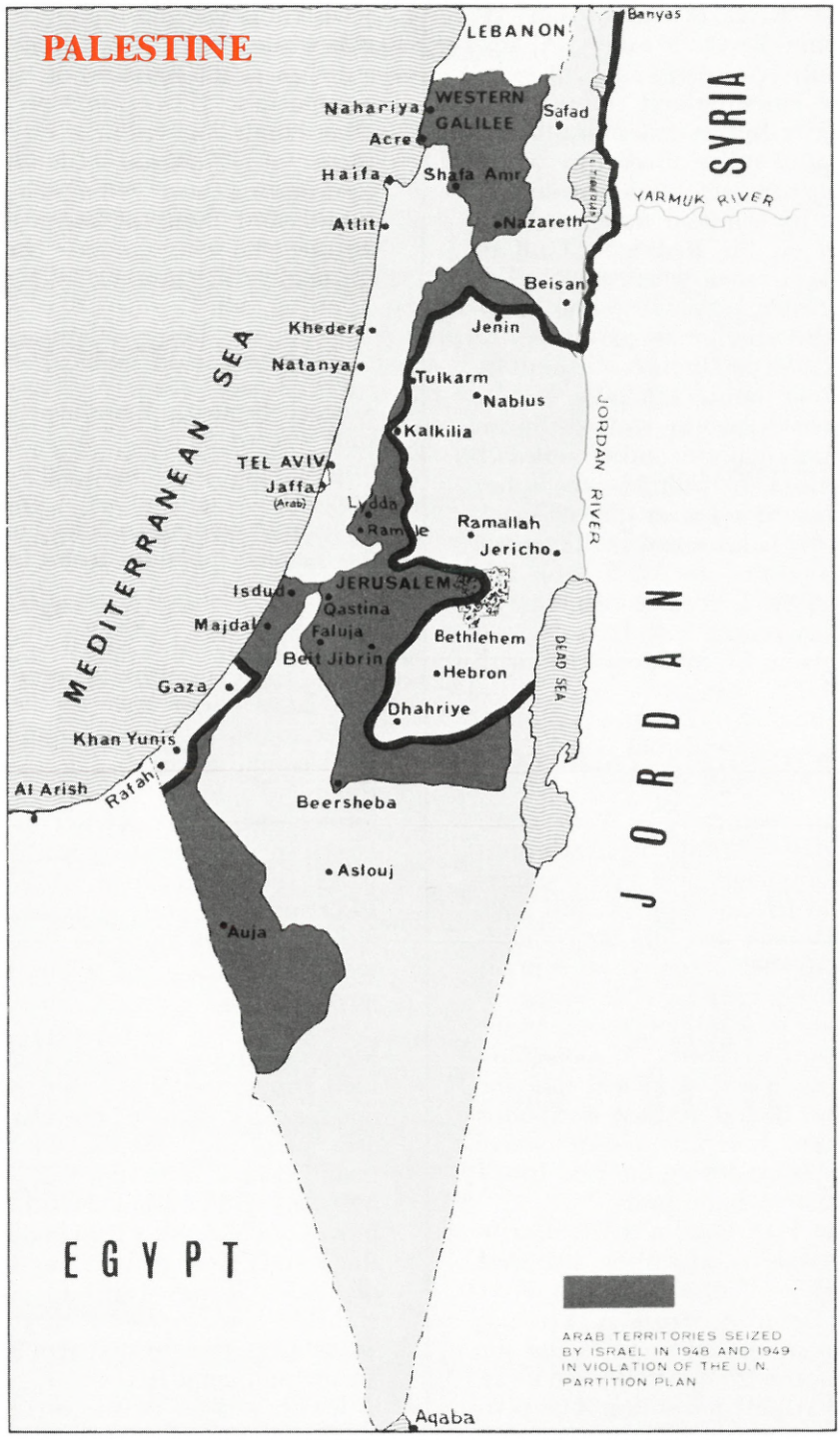
Topographically, Palestine has four principal regions. A coastal plain which extends from the Lebanese border in the north to Egypt's Sinai peninsula in the south. The coastal plain extends from north to south for 170 miles along the Mediterranean Sea, and varies in width from 3 to 25 miles. Its total area is about 1,467 square miles. In the Galilee region of northern Palestine, it extends inland into Marj Ben 'Amer, the most fertile agricultural area in Palestine, which connects the coastal plain to the Jordan Valley in the east. The coastal plain and the connected inland plains comprise about 17 percent of the total area of Palestine.

Rainfall in the plains region is adequate for agriculture, and ranges from 500-700 millimeters a year, decreasing in the southern region. Its highest elevation is 656 feet above sea level.

This is the region where most of Palestine's agricultural production is found and where most of the population lives. Also most of Palestine's larger cities are located in this region, including Acre, Haifa, Jaffa, Lydda, Ramleh, Al-Majdal,



View of Bethlehem



and Gaza, as well as hundreds of villages.

The second main division is the hilly region east of the coastal plain, extending from the Lebanese borders in the north to the Hebron area south of Jerusalem, with an average width of 30 miles. The highest peak in the Palestinian mountain ridge is Mount Jarmak (3,963 feet above sea level), northwest of the city of Safad in the area of Upper Galilee. In most areas, the mountain ridge averages 1,640-1,968 feet in elevation.

The mountain region is also fairly heavily populated and contains several of Palestine's larger towns and cities, including its capital Jerusalem. In addition to Jerusalem, the cities of Safad, Nazareth, Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, Bireh, Bethlehem, Beit Jala, and Hebron are located in this region. The hills are terraced and well cultivated, and planted mostly with fruit trees including olives, grapes, figs, almonds, apricots and plums.

The third region is the Jordan Valley area. This is a unique geographic feature which resulted from a "geological fault" causing a deep depression in the surface of the earth. It is the lowest land area in the world, where it is possible to fly below sea level (lowest elevation 1,300 feet below sea level). Through the Jordan Valley runs the River Jordan which is Palestine's eastern border with Jordan.

Rainy days are few in the Jordan Valley, and although in its northern part the rate of rainfall reaches 400-500 millimeters a year (in the city of Samakh), it diminishes rapidly in the south until it becomes negligible. The Valley, therefore, is less heavily populated, and its main cities are Tiberias, Samakh, Beisan, and Jericho. South of Jericho is the land-locked Dead Sea in which the River Jordan empties its waters.

Although the Jordan Valley, especially its southern section, is characterized by low elevation, hot climate and scarce rainfall, it is a valuable agricultural area. Its warm winters make it possible to grow crops (tomatoes, eggplants, peppers) out of season when they are not available from other regions. Bananas and citrus trees also grow in the Jordan Valley.

The fourth geographic region in Palestine is the Naqab (Negev) desert in the south. It is almost half the area of the country, gets very little rainfall (75-300 millimeters in Beersheba), and is sparcely populated. It extends to the south until it merges with the Egyptian Sinai peninsula.

Climate

In general, Palestine has the typically moderate climate of the Mediterranean basin, although differences in elevation and wind patterns produce significant regional variations remarkable for such a small country. It is often snowing in the hilly region, mild in the coastal area, and quite warm in the Jordan Valley, all within an hour's drive of each other.

Seasonal differences also affect Palestine's climate. Palestine has four distinct seasons. Its springs are

(continued on page 9)

SPECIAL REPORT

(continued from page 8)

mild and alternate between warm sunny days with clear blue skies and days of gentle rain. Plant life quickly reawakens, and the fruit trees sprout new leaves which appear to glow in the sunlight. The earth is covered with a variety of wild flowers of every color giving the landscape remarkable beauty.

Palestinian summers are dry. The coastal area is often hot and humid, and in the Jordan Valley temperatures often reach 104° F or higher. In the hilly region, however, summer temperatures rarely exceed 86° F, and due to the low level of humidity the region's climate is comfortable and pleasant. In the summer, Palestine's skies are almost always clear and startlingly full of stars.

The autumn is a transitional season whose main purpose seems to prepare the country for the arrival of winter. The skies acquire a deeper hue, and occasional high clouds float across them. The trees begin to shed their leaves and trim down to face the winds of winter. The heat of summer begins to dissipate and gradually turns into cold.

Winters bring dark clouds, shorter days, and longer and darker nights. It brings rain and winds and, in the hilly regions, it occasionally showers accumulations of snow of several feet in the northern mountains. Temperatures drop to 32° F on colder days, but in the coastal area they seldom fall below 43° F, and in the Jordan Valley temperatures remain even higher.

Water

In addition to its land area, Palestine has a little more than 460 square miles of inland water areas. These include the Dead Sea (394 square miles), Lake Tiberias, the largest Palestinian Lake (66 square miles). Its principal river is the River Jordan (158 miles, 120 of which is inside Palestinian territory), Al-Auja River (16 miles), Al Makta' River (8 miles), and Al-Na'amin River (5 miles). Al-Yarmuk River also runs for 10 miles inside Palestine and empties into the River Jordan. Palestine also has about 155 miles of coastline along the eastern end of the Mediterranean. Its southern tip gives it an outlet on the Red Sea's Gulf of Aqaba, an area where Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia as well as Palestine have contiguous coastlines.

In 1948 the Zionists—a minority of recent immigrants from various parts of the world—waged war on the Arab majority and occupied 78 percent of the country, where they proclaimed a Jewish state of Israel. In 1967, Israel seized the remnants of Palestine—the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Ever since then, the Palestinian people have been engaged in a war of independence with Israel. □

NO TO MILITARY SERVICE

Representatives of *Yesh Gvul* [There is a Limit], an Israeli anti-war movement, held a press conference in Jerusalem on 21 April 1986, to announce that they are committing all their resources in support of Israeli citizens who refuse to perform their military service in the occupied territories. A spokesman for *Yesh Gvul* estimated that the number of draft resisters is expected to exceed those who refused to serve in Lebanon during the 1982 Israeli invasion of that country.

The *Yesh Gvul* activists distributed copies of a petition addressed to Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin asking them to excuse the signatories from military service in the occupied territories. The petition states that, "Occupation has destroyed our values, while symptoms of racism and radical nationalist fanaticism have spread throughout Israeli society. Moreover, Jewish terrorist groups are legitimized and racist theories have been legalized."

The Jewish peace activitists pointed out that over 2,000 Israeli soldiers have signed their petitions against the war in Lebanon. Of the hundreds who refused to serve in Lebanon, 130 members were court-martialled. The spokesman for the Jewish anti-war group pointed out that while "Peace Now" limits its criticism to the practices of Israeli occupation, *Yesh Gvul*, on the other hand, objects to the very existence of occupation, calls for its termination and extends legal, moral and material support to anyone who refuses to serve beyond the borders of 5 June 1967. □

HARKABI WARNS ISRAEL

Israeli professor Yehoshafat Harkabi warned Israelis that their refusal to make peace with the Palestinians is likely to turn out to be a decision to commit suicide. This is the theme of his most recent book, *Fateful Decisions*.

In an interview about his new book, he told the Israeli weekly *Ha'ir* (7 March 1986): "I recognize that Israel's Jews have the democratic right to commit national suicide, and if they do I'll go with them." To avoid this fate, the former intelligence adviser to the Israeli prime minister said that Israel should negotiate with the PLO and make peace with the Palestinians. Speaking of the PLO he said: "All Palestinians belong to it anyway."

Harkabi said that people like Meron Benvenisti who say that Israeli annexation of the West Bank and Gaza has become "irreversible" are "simplistic." He said "Benvenisti's approach is simplistic and overdone. One million Frenchmen moved out of Algeria 130 years after the French first arrived; hundreds of thousands moved in Finland. It shouldn't be assumed that the 30,000 plus Jews in the West Bank are an immutable fact."

Jewish settlers in the occupied territories, he said, can either move out or remain as citizens of an Arab state. "There are Arabs living on the Israeli side," he said, "why shouldn't there be symmetry, with Jews living on the Arab side as well?"

Harkabi, a former Israeli general, is known as an advocate of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and Gaza and the establishment of a Palestinian state. He fears that Israeli annexation of the territories would make Israel into a de facto binational state. □

COMMENTARY...
THE ONE PARTY SYSTEM IN WASHINGTON

Americans are fond, and rightly so, of making fun of countries where presidents are elected by a majority of 99.9 percent, and of countries where parliaments vote unanimously. They will be shocked to realize that the American political system is not totally free of that sort of offense against democracy.

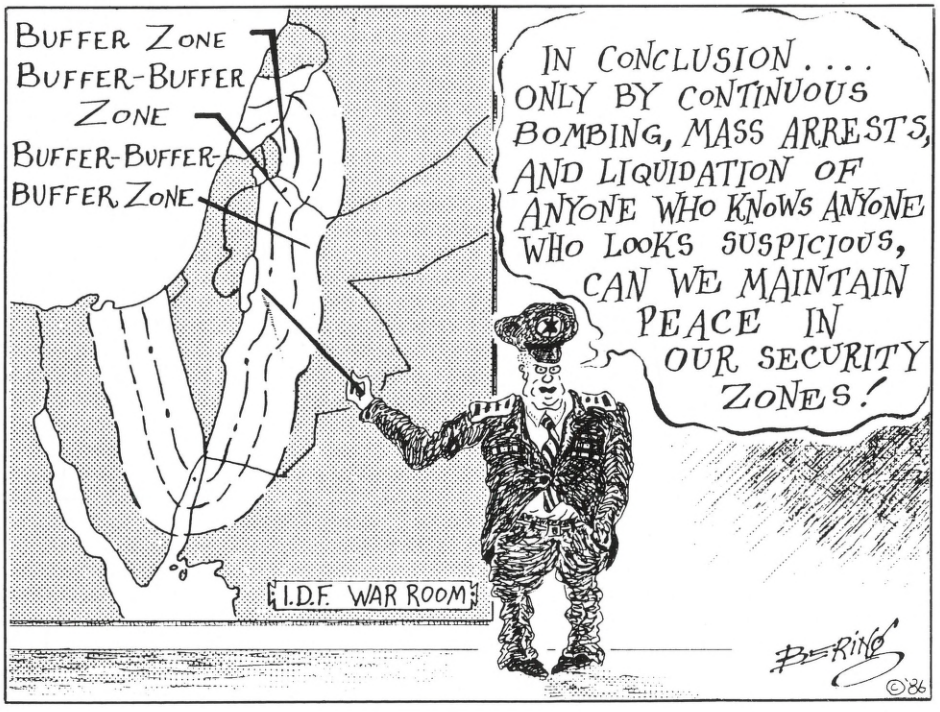
There is no question that democratic freedoms are alive in America. All the criticisms of the political parties which play musical chairs in Washington—and there are many criticisms—do not refute the fact that the freedom of dissent is very much a part of the American political process—until it comes to U.S. policy in the Middle East. At that point, America becomes a one-party state, just like all the other one-party states which are deservedly the object of widespread mockery.

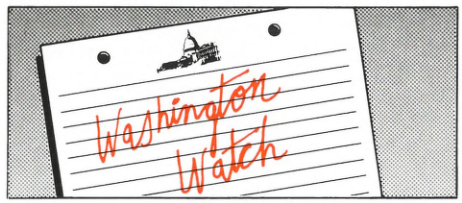
Congressional committees rush through multi-billion dollar grants for Israel without dissent. The Senate opposes arms sales to Jordan unanimously. [To be perfectly honest, one senator voted against but he did so because he wanted a more foolproof resolution against the sale.]

American politicians—especially congressman and senators—are fond of parroting the Zionist-inspired and self-serving myth that they support Israel because the American people do. In other words, they are being faithful representatives of the people's will.

In our view, this is an insult to the American public. The American people are not a school of fish; they are much too individualistic and diverse in their views on every issue from the Palestinians to seat belts. The best proof that Congress fails the American conscience is its unanimity in the unlimited, unconditional, and unthinking support it gives Israel and the corresponding hostility it shows toward the Arab peoples. By doing so, Congress not only distorts and betrays the people's will, it also betrays the spirit of American democracy.

The Zionist lobby is the midwife of this abominable corruption of American democracy. On Middle East policy, it needs a one party system in America. To ensure continued and increasing and unquestioned support for all that Israel wants, the Zionist lobby needs to suffocate dissent in the American decision-making process. Congressmen and Senators who respond to the wishes of the lobby, are its accomplices in this crime against American democracy. □





AIPAC SPEAKS... CONGRESS JUMPS

The Zionist Lobby Wants the U.S. to War with the PLO

In its latest annual conference, held in Washington during the first week of April, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) reviewed its 1985 achievements on behalf of Israel and planned for 1986. Top level representatives of the Reagan administration went through the familiar ritual of testifying to their continuing support for the Zionist lobby and the policies it advocates on Israel's behalf. Among them were U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese III, CIA Director William J. Casey, Senator John Heinz (R-PA), and Congressman Tony Coelho (D-CA) and others.

In his survey of the achievements of the Zionist lobby in the United States during the preceding year, AIPAC's Executive Director Thomas Dine said that although last year's AIPAC program was deemed too ambitious by some people, the lobby's accomplishments "exceeded every one of our goals." He enumerated AIPAC's achievements, and they covered economic, military, and diplomatic services to Israel, including the following:

□ Three billion dollars of U.S. economic and military grants plus $1.5 billion in emergency economic aid.

□ U.S. funding of the Israeli Lavi fighter-bomber.

□ The U.S. has ceased contribution to all United Nations programs "which benefit the PLO," [i.e. the Palestinians].

□ U.S. warning to Egypt that aid to it would be conditional on its attitude toward peace with Israel.

□ Successful obstruction of U.S. arms sales to Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

□ Postponement of the delivery of AWACS planes sold to Saudi Arabia

(continued on page 11)

AIPAC

(continued from page 10)

in 1981 until it "contribute[s] substantially to the peace process.

☐ Barring U.S. contacts with the PLO.

☐ Joint U.S.-Israeli military planning and maneuvers.

☐ The prepositioning of U.S. military gear in Israel.

☐ U.S. Navy pilots practicing in Israeli bombing ranges.

☐ Israeli participation in star wars research.

Dine proposed a strategy for the coming year to strengthen the Zionist lobby's influence in the Executive branch of government saying: "We must do in the Executive branch what we have done in Congress," which "contains our most reliable and essential friends." He said that AIPAC was working on building "a whole new constituency of support for Israel" in the Departments of State, Defense, and Treasury, as well as in the CIA and in government agencies which deal with science, trade, agriculture and other areas of interest to Israel. He also said that AIPAC would go outside Washington to organize constituencies and alliances in every congressional district and on all levels of state and local government.

He indicated that Secretary of State George Shultz shares his belief in the need to secure the Executive branch and quoted him saying that the U.S.-Israeli relationship must be rendered indissoluble. According to Dine, Shultz said that the point of strategic cooperation between the U.S. and Israel is "to build institutional arrangements so that eight years from now, if there is a Secretary of State who is not positive about Israel, he will not be able to overcome the bureaucratic relationship between Israel and the U.S. that we have established." In other words, the Zionist lobby, with the help of U.S. politicians, wants to cast an impenetrable net around U.S. Middle East policy in all branches and on all levels of government. Dine described this process as a "revolution" in the U.S.-Israeli relationship.

At the end of its conference, AIPAC adopted another ambitious program of action to further deepen U.S. complicity in Israel's policy in the Middle East. In addition to the usual objectives of ensuring for Israel continued substantial U.S. economic and military assistance and continuing opposition to the sale of arms to Arab states, AIPAC resolved to work for moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, to have the Reagan administration pressure Jordan's King Hussein to make unilateral peace with Israel, to oppose an international peace conference and PLO participation in the peace process.

Most ominously, AIPAC wants the U.S. government, in effect, to declare war on the PLO. It demanded the closure of the Palestine Information Office in Washington and the offices of the PLO mission to the United Nations in New York. It also demanded "denying Arafat access to the United Nations" and the convening of a grand jury to indict the PLO chairman for alleged terrorist acts.

Israel's friends in congress quickly took their cue and before the month was over began hearings by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism. The hearings, on "Legal Mechanisms to Combat Terrorism," echoed AIPAC's thoughts on the PLO. Senator Jermiah Denton vowed to push through congress a variety of measures which threaten to restore the witch-hunting days of the McCarthy period in the U.S. Congress. Congressman Jack Kemp, in a lengthy article he wrote for the *Washington Times* (30 April) joined the chorus of congressional voices sponsoring AIPAC's campaign against the Arabs and Palestinians in America.

The Director of the Palestine Information Office in Washington, Mr. Hassan Abdel Rahman, speaking to a group of Arab journalists the following day, described this AIPAC-inspired campaign against the PLO as "the Israelization of American policy in the Middle East." He warned that AIPAC wants the U.S. government to stigmatize the PLO as an illegal criminal organization in order to stifle the Palestinian voice and to close the door shut in the face of any possible Arab-American understanding. ☐

ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA

At All Soul's Unitarian Church in Washington, a local audience heard Ann Talamas, National Representative for November 29th Committee for Palestine introduce two speakers on the identity between the struggle of the people of Black South Africa and that of the Palestinian people. Mamazani Xulu is Chairperson of the New York Women's Section of the African National Congress; Jeanne Butterfield is National Director of the November 29th Committee for Palestine who was a delegate to the Nairobi Women's Conference and who visited the Occupied Territories and Lebanon as part of a delegation of the National Lawyers' Guild.

Mamazani Xulu asserted the similarity of the struggle of Black South Africans and that of the Palestinians in that both peoples are oppressed by regimes which share the conviction that they are divinely "chosen people," since both the Boers and the Israelis quote the Bible to justify their domination of land and people. "The Boers quote the Bible, saying the Black people are the sons of Ham, cursed to be drawers of water and hewers of wood. They believe they were sent by God to civilize and rule the Blacks," Mamazani said.

In Palestine, Israeli Jews rule as a privileged elite while the Palestinian population has been dispersed and has suffered the confiscation of the vast majority of its land. In South Africa, 80% of the richest and most productive land has been reserved for the use of 4.5 million whites, while the most arid and poor 13% has been set aside for the use of 25 million Blacks. Neither



In Israel...



. . .and South Africa

the Black South Africans nor the Palestinians have a voice in the government in power, she added.

U.S. financial support for Israel subverts the embargo urged by the United Nations to force South Africa to improve conditions for the Black majority. Weapons shipped from the U.S. to Israel find their way to South Africa, Ms. Xulu said, and it is Israel which supplies both the weapons and the training for the native police. In 1982, Ariel Sharon went to Namibia as an adviser on tactics to control SWAPO, the freedom fighters of Black South Africa.

Furthermore, millions of dollars worth of goods produced in South Africa (like diamonds) are finished and packaged in Israel, and sold abroad with "made in Israel" labels.

All skilled jobs are still reserved for whites, while menial jobs are reserved for Blacks. The Botha regime even imports white foreigners to take high skilled jobs when regular workers are called into the armed services, rather than hiring unemployed local Black workers. South Africa is a rich and fertile country, declared Mamazani, capable of feeding its entire population and exporting food to other countries. Yet malnutrition and starvation are rampant, especially in the so-called Black Homelands where the soil is poor and the people forcibly resettled in them are frequently totally untrained in agricultural skills and are without any of the equipment necessary to raise their own food.

As in Palestine, torture and death in prison is common, and, also as in Palestine, children are often the victims of violence. They are attacked with cyanide-laced tear gas bombs, Mamazani said. A new technique used gainst children in Black areas is called "the Trojan Horse," whereby police enter the neighborhood concealed in trucks, taunting the children by throwing stones to provoke reprisals, then emerging from hiding to shoot live ammunition, often with lethal results.

Jeanne Butterfield presented an overview of the Palestinian and South Lebanon situation using a series of recent slides depicting conditions under Israeli "Iron Fist" occupation and drawing parallels to similar economic and political conditions of Black South Africans under the Botha regime.

Massive destruction of citrus and olive crops, ruins of destroyed houses, vast overcrowded prisons, closed universities and refugee camps under military siege were eloquently demonstrated in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank including Jerusalem, and in the remnants of villages and town in the South of Lebanon. Ms. Butterfield's graphic account made it clear that the aim of Israeli occupation, ostensibly the "security" of the Jewish residents and the punishment of Palestinians who dare to resist, is also calculated to so disrupt the local economy and ecology that the people will be forced to depend on the Israelis for their food as well as for work. ***Dr. A. Clare Brandabur***

OVER 3,500 PALESTINIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE SUFFERING IN ISRAELI PRISONS AND DETENTION CENTERS

The Friends of Palestinian Prisoners is a network that reaches out to these men and women through correspondence. Letters from concerned people mean so much to the prisoners who are enduring very difficult lives and are virtually cut off from the outside world. Won't you contact us today and "adopt" a prisoner?

FRIENDS OF PALESTINIAN PRISONERS
PO BOX 15288
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003
(202) 543-7997

TERRORISM IN AMERICA

Since this seems to be high season for terrorism, counter-terrorism, and counter-counter-terrorism, we would like to recommend to our readers a recent article on the subject. It beats anything they hear on television about it. The article is by Robert I. Friedman, and it is called "Nice Jewish Boys with Bombs." It appeared in *The Village Voice* of May 6, 1986. □

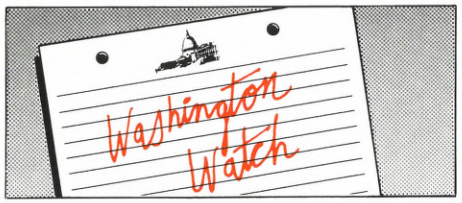
ADC PLEA FOR HOSTAGES

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) has launched a nationwide campaign on behalf of the American hostages held in Lebanon. The drive is intended to collect a large number of signatures from Arab-Americans on petitions for the release of the hostages.

An ADC news release said that "when a sufficient number of signatures are collected a delegation of ADC representatives will be sent to Lebanon to deliver the petitions to the appropriate authorities. In a letter sent to the families of the hostages, the ADC explained the reasons behind the petition campaign. The letter said: "We feel that too little is being done by official sources to try to obtain their release. We will try to explain to those who are holding the hostages that not only are they not part of the struggle in which they find themselves, but that the Arab-Americans who signed these petitions are making the request as friends of the people of Lebanon, and not as antagonists."

The ADC said that it hoped that a clear humanitarian appeal from large numbers of American citizens of Arab descent would help to create significant movement towards the resolution of what is essentially one of many tragic by-products of a misguided and dangerous U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East.

The ADC is a grass roots Arab-American civil rights organization which has more than 13,000 members throughout the country.



THE ISRAELI BLACK HOLE

Lavi Fighter-Bomber Swallows $1 Billion...So Far

The U.S. government has already spent $1 billion on the development of the Lavi, an "Israeli" fighter-bomber...and the project is not yet finished. After footing the bill for the Israeli project for the past four years, the U.S. is beginning to have serious doubts about it.

A confidential report by the Pentagon and other U.S. security agencies, recently leaked to the press, indicates that Israel has misled its American benefactors regarding the total cost of the project. The report says that, contrary to Israeli assurances, the Lavi project involves $300 million in cost overruns. This is in development costs only.

More seriously, the report says, the plane will be very costly to manufacture. The U.S. estimates that every Lavi will cost $22-30 million to build, or 45-65 percent more than the Israelis said it would cost. Since Israel plans to build 300 Lavis, several billion dollars of U.S. military aid will be needed in the future to keep the Israeli war machine well-fed.

Apprehensions about the Lavi project and its cost to the U.S. are not new. About a year ago, on 11 July 1985, the *Aerospace Daily* said that there was increasing realization in the U.S. that the Israeli project was a costly mistake, and that when completed, the Lavi would fly badly. It called the Lavi a "white elephant."

The "Israeli" jet is not only U.S.-financed, but half of it—including the engine and the wings—is American-made. □

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Palestine Perspectives

IS BIG BROTHER WATCHING?

Be Careful What You Read on Delta Flights

[The following affidavit was made by a Delta Airline passenger who was judged suspicious by a book she was reading]:

Unofficial Affidavit

My name is Rema J. Simon. I reside in Roslindale, Massachusetts. I am 23 years of age, and a graduate of Suffolk University. The following text describes an incident that occured while sitting on board a Delta Airline flight in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The book mentioned is titled "Palestine Is, But Not In Jordan", written by Sheila Ryan and Muhammed Hallaj. It is published by the Association of Arab-American University Graduates.

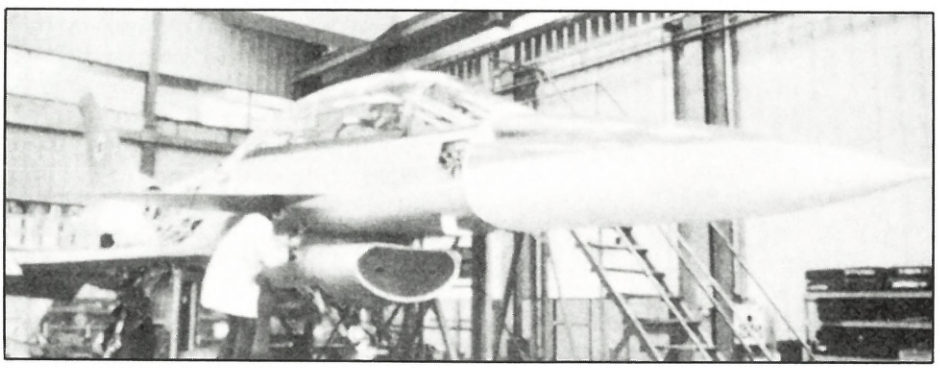
On the evening of May 1, 1986, I went to the Delta Airline terminal located at the Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. I was returning to Boston from a vacation visiting my fiance. After purchasing a ticket for Flight 136, I learned that there would be a thirty minute delay. Originally, the flight was to leave at 8:15 p.m. Now, I did not proceed to the boarding gate until that time. The gate number was 4A. When I arrived, they were not yet boarding. I sat down in the gate area and started reading a book that I had brought with me. At approximately 8:45 p.m., when my seat group was announced, I put the book in my purse, boarded, and took my assigned seat, #21F, a window seat. While waiting for takeoff I got my book out and started reading again. A couple, whose aquaintance I later made, took the two seats to my left. The plane was seemingly full. Approximately 10 minutes had passed when a man in a beige suit approached me. He was carrying a walkie talkie, and was wearing a lapel pin that read "Airport Security". He said: "Miss, could you please come with me. I have to talk to you." I got up from my seat and followed him off of the plane. We stood outside of the door of the aircraft. Several flight attendants and airline or airport personnel stood around us. The man said: "Some passengers are concerned about what you're reading." I said: "It's for my studies." He then took the book from my hand, leafed through it, and gave it back to me. The man then said: "If you could put it away when you get back on the flight. This is a sensitive subject at airports." I replied: "Okay." I then returned to my seat which was toward the rear of the plane, and did not take the book out until 2½ hours later when the man to my left expressed an interest in the matter.

This incident was very upsetting to me. I felt that I was singled out and made conspicuous. When I was following the man on and off of the airplane, I was being stared at and felt embarrassed. When I was being questioned I felt intimidated and somewhat at a loss for words. I was quite shaken when I got back to my seat, and was glad that there were people next to me to whom I could relieve some of this tension. I was not searched, so I doubt that they thought me any real threat. Therefore, I am greatly upset that I was harassed in this way, and that it was for no other reason than the title of a book that I happened to be reading. I am not certain if it was airline or airport policy that prompted this inquiry, but I am further concerned about the civil rights implications of this incident.

Signed

Rema J. Simon

Rema J. Simon, May 6, 1986



THE MERCHANTS OF DEATH

Israeli General and Accomplices Caught

American military aid to Israel since the 1973 war has been so generous that there have long been rumors that Israel simply has not had the capacity to absorb all the equipment. Israel has been provided with hundreds of American-made airplanes and tanks, thousands of various types of missiles and uncountable amounts of various other items ranging from ammunition to anti-personnel mines. Last year alone, U.S. military aid to Israel reached nearly $2 billion, all of it in the form of nonrepayable grants. Now, in what might be one of the more imaginative attacks on Israel's balance of payments problems, some Israelis have decided to take what was given free and sell it for a profit. The problem is that the customer they tried to sell U.S.-made weapons turned out to be one of America's enemies, Iran.

This was not a new experience for Israel. When Ariel Sharon was defense minister, Israel was caught selling military hardware to Iran. But that was reported to involve a relatively minor number of spare parts and Israel promised to suspend the practice after Washington complained. What makes the current deal noteworthy is that it allegedly involves an astonishing $2.5 billion worth of American weapons.

There is a U.S. federal ban against transferring weapons to Iran, and after the schemes were infiltrated by U.S. agents, they were indicted on 21 April. Among the 17 persons charged with violating the U.S. arms export control act was an Israeli retired general, Avraham Baram, a 30-year veteran of the IDF. He was the second in charge of Israel's northern command during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon and by the time of his retirement in 1984 he was chief of staff of the army's manpower section. The indictment said he remained an active adviser to the northern command at the time of his arrest in Bermuda.

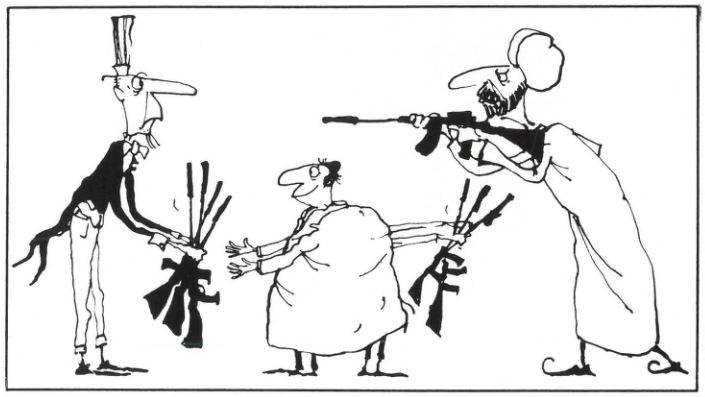
Baram and the others, who include two Israelis, four Americans, four West Germans, two Greeks, a Frenchman, a Briton and two men of unknown nationality, were charged with trying to sell a virtual armory of weapons to Iran. These included dozens of F-4 and F-5 fighter-bombers, 46 A-6 warplanes, five C-130 transport planes, helicopters, M-48 tanks, 15,000 Tow anti-tank missiles as well as 600 Chaparal surface-to-surface missiles, 200 Aim air-to-air missiles and 200 Maverick air-to-surface missiles. Assorted items among a vast array of weaponry and *materiel* included cluster bomb units, aircraft engines and recoilless rifles. Except for the F-5 jets, all the items listed in the indictment are reported to be types of hardware that over the years have been given to Israel as part of America's military assistance.

While Israel immediately disclaimed any knowledge of the scheme or involvement with the suspects, Baram was telling a different story from his jail cell. In a telephone interview with the Tel Aviv newspaper *Davar*, General Baram claimed that "the defense establishment knows about this group, of which I was an adviser. And if the state of Israel does not help us, I won't sit here for a month for nothing. I'll give myself up to the United States." In an interview with Israeli radio, he added: "What we tried to sell was the state's equipment. Let's say there are many people involved in this deal, and in all of this we are only a small part."

U.S. officials said Baram's first telephone call after his arrest was to the Israeli military attache in Washington, a legation that is getting a growing number of distress calls these days. Only last November, Jonathan Pollard, an American accused of spying for Israel, was arrested after he telephoned the Israeli embassy in a bid to seek political asylum. □

[From an article by Donald Neff, ***Middle East International,*** 2 May 1986]

World View



Middle East International

In Brief

ISRAEL BOYCOTT

Actress Vanessa Redgrave called for the cultural boycott of Israel because it is "fundamentally racist." The call for the boycott of Israel was made during the recent annual meeting of Equity, the British actors union. The call was supported by 38 of the members present but failed to secure majority support.

RACISM STILL LEGAL

The efforts to make racism and racial discrimination illegal in Israel have failed. . .again. The bill—introduced after racist Rabbi Meir Kahane was elected to the Knesset—which would make "racist incitement" a criminal offense in Israel was blocked again and failed to reach a second reading in the Israeli legislature.

TERRORISTS ENJOY PASSOVER

Three members of the Jewish terrorist underground sentenced by Israeli court for life in prison have spent their Passover holiday with their families at the luxurious Plaza Hotel in Jerusalem.

The three convicted terrorists Shaul Nir, Menahim Livni, and Uzi Sharbaf, were escorted to the hotel by Israeli police who attempted to cover up the special privileges which have been extended members of the terrorist underground since their conviction and imprisonment.

BRANDED

In the Jerusalem neighborhood of Neve Ya'akov live good Jews who accept every word our rabbis utter on the issue of Arabs living in the neighborhood as if it were divine revelation. If the Sephardic chief rabbi finds support in "the sources" for its being expressly prohibited to sell or rent apartments to non-Jews in Eretz Yisrael, and if Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem and Shas party member Rabbi Nissim Ze'ev speaks out against Arabs living in the neighborhood, then what can the man in the street say?

A friend of mine who lives in the neighborhood says that hoodlums have begun accosting Arab passers-by and threatening them, and that ***Arab homes in the area have been branded with a special sign***—apparently so that they may be identified "when the time comes." Sephardic Chief Rabbi Eliahu goes right on instructing in Jewish Law, Rabbi Nissim Ze'ev goes right on serving as Teddy Kollek's deputy, and history goes right on repeating itself, fifty years after Jewish homes and shops were branded in another, far-away country.

Yitzhaq Ben-Ner
Davar (Israel)
20 January 1986

THE POT AND THE KETTLE

The Woes of a Russian Jew in Israel

Russian-born Mordechai Koch last week won an order *nisi* from the High Court of Justice ordering the Interior Ministry and the Tel Aviv Rabbinical Court to say why he should not be considered a Jew and why his Israeli citizenship should not be returned to him.

Koch, 33, says he was born of Jewish parents in the USSR. When he was three, he and his family moved to Poland, where Koch says he attended a Jewish junior school. But the family were persecuted in Poland and came to Israel when he was 12. They were duly registered as Jews and received Israeli citizenship.

Koch's application to the court says that, while he was serving in the IDF [Israeli Army], he received a letter from the Interior Ministry informing him that it did not consider him a citizen and was registering him as a Christian.



Koch says that his requests for clarification were ignored. He also says that when he sought to terminate his IDF service on the grounds that he was not regarded as a citizen, he was told that if he absented himself from service he would be regarded as a deserter and prosecuted.

He completed his army service, was decorated during the Yom Kippur War, and served in the IDF during the Lebanon war. He says he received none of the usual benefits granted to IDF veterans.

Koch's application also says that he lives with, and has had two children by, Rachel Nagar. Despite his contention that he is Jewish, he nevertheless decided to ask the Tel Aviv Rabbinical Court to "convert" him. But the court refused to do this.

Koch also says that, in revoking his citizenship, the Interior Ministry has also denied him the right to vote in Knesset elections and the right to hold an Israeli passport.

Koch says there is no evidence in the Interior Ministry that would refute the declaration by which his Jewishness was first established, and that he has been given no reasoned explanation of why his citizenship has been revoked. □

[***The Jerusalem Post***, weekly edition, week ending 22 March 1986]

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