

Forum on the Mid-East

From one who has lived there

By YAACOV MAMANE
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For more than 3,500 years Jews have been living in Israel. Only from the second through the fifth century did the Jews become a minority in their own land. The Jewish people never accept permanent separation from their country. Almost every century sees waves of immigration to the land.

Zionism as a political movement strove to establish an Arab-Jewish understanding. A great number of attempts had been made before the 1919 Weizmann-Faisal agreement, which welcomed the Jews to Palestine. These were followed by attempts in the 1930's and 40's. All had one aim: to reach an agreement with the Arab neighbors. It should be made clear that Palestinian Arab nationalism was not a visible factor at that time.

In 1921 Britain received a mandate over the land. Britain partitioned the mandate of Palestine into two territories in 1922 placing 75 per cent of it in Arab lands. Although the nationalist demands of the Arab people had been richly fulfilled between 1922 and 1947 (through more and more truncation of the territory originally allotted for the Jewish homeland), they refused to honor the equivalent legitimacy of Jewish rights.

Their position was that Arabs should be sovereign everywhere; the Jews nowhere.

From 1947 to 1948 seven Arab states declared war against Israel resulting in the exodus of 600,000 Arabs—mainly to other parts of Palestine. It should be noted that the Arab refugee problem (today 600,000 of 2.8 million Palestinians) was the result of the 1948 war started by the Arab states. Israel has already solved the problem of over 700,000 Jewish refugees from Arab countries. There are almost 20 Arab states with over \$20 billion in world banks. What are these Arab governments prepared to do to solve their own refugee problem?

At the same time a wave of anti-Jewish persecution started in most Arab countries. Riots cost the lives of hundreds of Jews in Egypt, Lybia, Syria, Iraq and elsewhere. During World War II, following the Nazis, some 150 Jews in Iraq were massacred by Arab rioters. In 1941 and 1945 there were widespread riots in which hundreds of Jews were killed. Since then billions of dollars worth of property was confiscated. In most places Jews were subjected to arbitrary arrest, degradation and loss of civil and political rights. In 1948 more than 760,000 Jews lived in Arab coun-

tries; today their total is about 50,000.

Let me put it in the simplest terms. I was born in Morocco. In 1956, when Morocco got its autonomy from the French, the Jewish community was terrorized by physical attacks, arbitrary arrests and other repressive measures. More than 200,000 Jews escaped Morocco, leaving all their property behind. Morocco was the most moderate Arab country. The contemporary terrorism cannot be compared with what happened in the land of Israel before 1948.

The Palestinian problem is not what the stereotypes of Arab propaganda attempt to present. It is not the problem of a nation expelled from its land, since most of the Palestinians still live within the territory of what was the British Mandate, Palestine. It is not, in the main, a refugee problem, since none of the rich Arab countries is willing to help the Arab refugees, while Israel is. It is not the problem of citizenship people, since most of the Palestinians enjoy citizenship of the countries in which they lived.

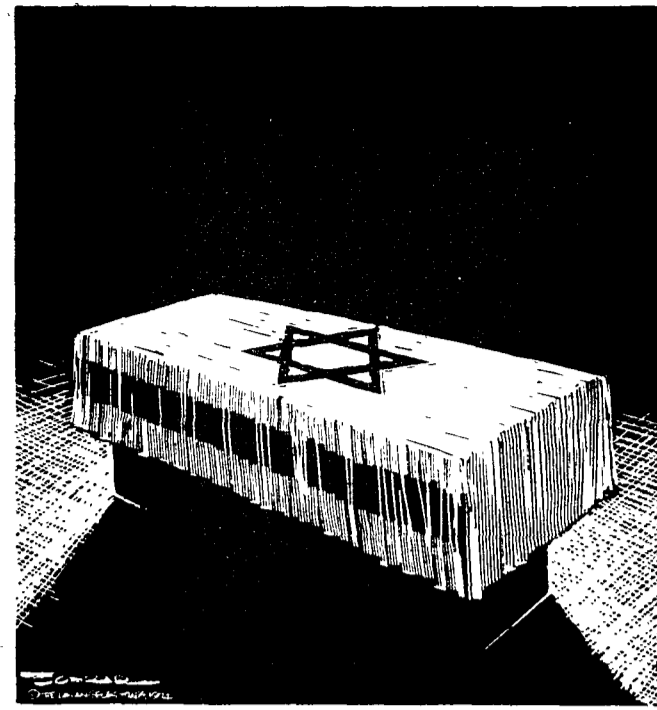
The problem of the Palestinians is mainly political and is linked with the question of whether the Arab states are prepared to reconcile themselves to the existence of an independent Jewish state in the Mid-East.

Since at this time most Palestinians are Jordanians and most Jordanians are Palestinians, the most logical solution would be a negotiated settlement between the two existing states in the area—Israel and Jordan—within the framework of which the Palestinians would find full scope for national self-expression.

For me, a Jew who was born in an Arab country, who suffered from Arab terrorism, who fled in 1956 from there to Israel, there is no need for additional proof that the Arab states intend to annihilate Israel.

Israel will not die or disappear, and it will be strong enough to protect itself.

THE UN GIVETH AND THE UN COULD TAKETH AWAY



Too tired for the truth?

By AARON M. SCHILLER
Advanced Adjunct Student

I suggest that the individual who wrote that he or she was "tired of hearing that Hebrews had a 2,000-year claim to Palestine," is indeed a tired individual. This individual was too tired to do his or her homework on an issue he or she felt qualified to write on. For fear of becoming too repetitious with the words he or she and this individual allow me to refer to this person as "Claud."

Claud made reference to the Slovaks, the Lithuanians, the Austro-Hungarians, the Chinese and the American Indians. Claud seems to maintain that we (Americans) are over-concerned with the Israeli cause, and we should be more selective as to where we place our priorities. Claud states that the Slovaks have always been ruled by others. Well Claud, if you're that concerned, get the movement started, and if it be a just cause, I for one will jump on your bandwagon. Claud also complains, "Lithuania, Austro-Hungary and others no longer exist, and China is divided." We may be a powerful nation with a lot of economic and political pull, but nothing short of a world war is going to change those situations.

Claud is not, however, without a magnanimous spirit as he gives credit to the Jews "They have greatly improved the once worthless piece of land called Palestine." But you blew the appeasement Claud, when you went on to say, "Why can't they realize the

Palestinians also have a claim to Palestine? They also have a religious reason for wanting Jerusalem." Shame you! Not only did you fail in your research, but you didn't even read the papers. For if you had, you would have known that this is not a religious war.

For your benefit Claud allow me to quote a few of the speeches made immediately preceding the 1967 Arab-Israeli War.

Jordan, May 15, 1967: "There is no doubt that our war with Israel is imminent. We shall therefore be prepared and mobilize all our resources...We will strengthen our forces and liquidate Israel completely so that she will disappear from the face of the earth."

Egypt May 17, 1967: "Egypt, with all its potential resources, human economic, and scientific, is ready to plunge into a total war that will be the end of Israel."

Also for your benefit Claud I have traced down a speech made by President Nassar on May 26, 1967. You'll be happy to read that this particular speech is religious, for in it you'll notice the

mention of God Nassar said, "The world is very much different today from what it was 10 days ago. Israel as well is different today from what was seen 10 days ago...We looked forward to the day when we would be properly prepared, so that if we go into a campaign with Israel we will be able, with the help of God, to be victorious. I could not say things like this five years ago or even three years ago. Today I say these things since I know what is at our disposal. I also know the positions of the other Arab states today. Today the Syrian army and the Egyptian army represent one front...Our basic goal will be the destruction of Israel..."

Destruction, liquidate, disappear from the face of the earth — this may sound religious to you, Claud, but I hope and pray that it does not. I am wishful that all you are suffering from is ignorance, and I write this letter not with contempt but rather with the hope that it will shed some light on this ignorance.

Alas, Claud, I have one more point to make, you were even too tired to sign your name.

the daily Collegian

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Totalitarianism in Saudi Arabia

By CAMINO PATTIL
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I was on a three-month visit with Aramco, the oil company in Saudi Arabia. I took a tour of many parts of that vast, mostly desert country, and had many chances to get to know the people. I found them to be generous, and very hospitable.

As one might know, the government there is a monarchy of an antique type. The king with his family total about 5,000. It is a family of conservatives as well as playboys and gamblers.

The freedom of speech, criticism of the regime, and many other things are forbidden. Added to that is the presence of the so-called "Religious Association." Such a clique is very active all over the country. Their function is to enforce the governmental religious laws. An example of some rules are the prayers in the mosques at five times a day, and cutting the long hair of young men by force! These rules amazingly do not apply to the king's family.

Although some of the people—mostly illiterate—support the totalitarian regime, the majority do not approve of the way of the system. Rarely would people truthfully tell you their feelings for the police reprisals. I was told that in 1970 there were about 2,500 political prisoners. Many of them are still in custody. Most of the opposition to the government comes

from the people of the Eastern province—home of the oil fields. Those people practice another Islamic sect, different from the official "Wahabi" sect acknowledged by the king. These people feel they are segregated against and taken advantage of.

There is not much happening in the Eastern province other than the oil business. Although there is no industry, there is a growing building construction in the capital, Riyadh, which is in the middle province. The people of the middle province are of Bedouin background and mostly conservative. Such Bedouins make up the national guard, which is created by the king to oppose the "educated" army. On such occasions the national guard is used to crush any opposition.

There are royal rivalries as how to run the country, and who succeeds the ailing King Faisal. I was told that there were several trials to topple the whole aging regime, but none succeeded. An intellectual once said, "Our government is the wealthiest in the world, the most backward, most oppressed and exploitative." He continued to say that the oil money is divided between the oil companies, and the Saudi sheiks. The latter play with it, deposit it in Swiss banks or invest it outside the country for themselves!

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