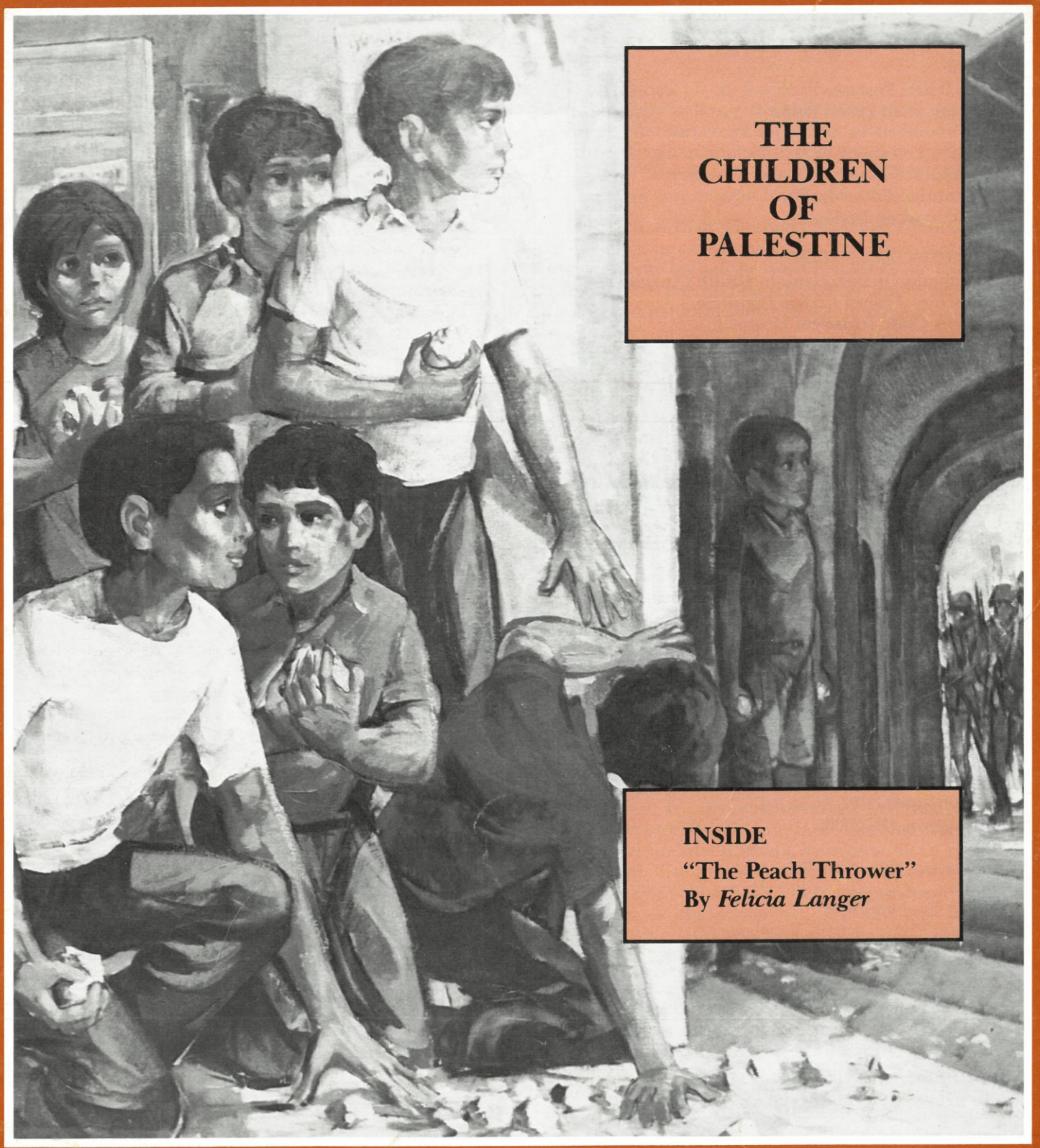
Palestine Perspectives

Number 18

August/September 1985



THE CHILDREN OF PALESTINE

INSIDE

"The Peach Thrower"
By *Felicia Langer*

Palestinian children face Israeli soldiers with rocks in their hands. Painting by Palestinian artist **Ismael Shammout.**

$1.50

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THE GROUND RULES: A REMINDER

The recurrence of war in human relations makes it easy to forget the fact that humanity also has an impressive track record in peacekeeping and peacemaking. Someone once called our attention to the fact that for every war that happened there were many wars that were averted and did not happen. Even wars which do happen are normally concluded with a peace process.

This accumulated experience in peacemaking has yielded certain ground rules which we cannot afford to ignore. Among them is that peace among nations happens when their interests require it. This means that peace becomes possible, among other things, when the various parties to a conflict satisfy minimal conditions which they perceive to be essential to their life, liberty or the pursuit of happiness.

The Arab-Israeli conflict in general and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in particular have defied all attempts made so far to resolve them because such attempts have violated the tried and tested ground rules of peacemaking. This has been particularly true in the way the Palestinian question has been handled.

The most constant feature of "the peace effort" has been the attempt to satisfy the interests of all the parties at the expense of one, namely: the Palestinians. All "peace initiatives" have recognized the needs and wishes of all parties, their constraints and the limits on their ability to compromise, except in the case of the Palestinians. All "peace initiatives" have been based on the assumption that all parties have "red lines" beyond which they cannot retreat, except the Palestinians. All peace efforts seem to be based on the preposterous and obviously false assumption that, among all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinians have an unlimited capacity to "facilitate" the peace process by abandoning one after another of their national rights.

This process has reached a stage where the Palestinians are in effect being asked "to spare the Middle East the inconvenience of their national existence." Peace is never achieved in this manner. ***The Palestinians cannot and must not be expected to consent to being burned as a peace offering.*** To continue to blame them for insisting on minimal rights to ensure their survival as one of the peoples of the Middle East, is the same as blaming the victim for troublemaking because he resists his assailant.

It has been said that the problem boils down to the fact that either there is one state too few or one people too many in the Middle East. Are we to allow the establishment of the missing state or to eliminate the "surplus" people? As we explore options, we need to ponder the awesome implications of this question.

Asking the parties to a conflict to be more "forthcoming" for the sake of peace makes sense up to a point and on the basis of reciprocity. For the Palestinians, being forthcoming has gone beyond the point of diminishing returns. And ***when compromise passes the point of diminishing returns, the peace process mutates into a prescription for more conflict.*** The peacemakers betray their trust the instant they ignore this fact. □

M. Hallaj

DEAR READERS...

As *Palestine Perspectives* concludes the first two years of its life, the encouraging response of our readers helps us prepare with optimism for its third year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our readers for their encouragement and to ask for their support to ensure the continuity of this unique forum on one of the most vital international issues of our time: the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

We particularly appeal to those of you who have been receiving *Palestine Perspectives* on a complimentary basis to take a subscription now. Those who already subscribe may wish to order a gift subscription for an interested friend or a library. It would be an appropriate birthday present to our magazine.

In addition to its publications, the Palestine Research and Educational Center maintains a specialized library on the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The library is available, free of charge, to students and researchers. The Center also provides specific information upon request. A contribution to the work of the Center would help us increase our library resources and enhance our ability to serve the interested public.

If you feel that the Palestine Research and Educational Center, its magazine *Palestine Perspectives*, its Information Papers and its other informational services are fulfilling the need to expand public knowledge and awareness of an issue of great concern, you can help us continue our work. A contribution to the Center and/or a subscription to *Palestine Perspectives* would be helpful and appreciated.

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FORUM

THE PEACH THROWER

Felicia Langer

If it were not for the handcuffs, they would have looked like brothers walking together. The older one led the younger one into court with their wrists bound together. Apparently, the manufacturers of handcuffs do not make them to fit around such small wrists, which explains why the little boy was moving his hands so freely.

His name is Diab. He comes from Beit Ummar. Because he is conscious of his small stature which causes people to underestimate his age, he quickly informs me that he is 12 years old. His parents and relatives are not present, because they were not informed that he was to stand trial today.

The hour is late, and it has been a long and tiresome day. The crowd has left, and the courtroom is virtually empty. The child stood alone before the court.

The military prosecutor told me: "Do you see how sensitive I am to his situation? I have taken the initiative to bring him over from the Far'a prison today to give him a prompt trial. I felt sorry for him. He could have been detained for two more months before a court hearing. At any rate, he is accused of stone throwing. I have no objection if you volunteer to defend him."

The child answered me with surprising self-assurance: "I didn't throw any stones. The prosecutor can do whatever he wants, but I will not confess to the charges. The only thing I threw was a peach...."

I looked at the prosecutor in amazement and told him that this would be my first legal defense of a peach thrower! I am fully aware that stones in the hands of Palestinian children have been defined as lethal weapons. However, I was not aware that the principle was extended to fruits....

Needless to say, my sense of humor went unappreciated. The prosecutor finally admitted that according to the evidence in his file, it might have been just a peach and not a stone. The plaintiff, an Israeli taxi driver, testified that some object was hurled at his car without specifying the nature of the object. At any rate, the prosecutor insisted, justice must be served and hence the indictment.

The judge looked at his watch as if he couldn't wait any longer, then announced in an agitated manner that the prosecutor had agreed to reducing the charges from stone throwing to peach throwing. Before I was allowed to utter a single word, the accused was sentenced for a crime unheard of in the annals of the military court in Nablus or anywhere else in the occupied territories: throwing a peach towards an Israeli vehicle. While I was still stunned at

(continued on page 3)

PEACH THROWER *(continued from page 2)*
these proceedings, the judge addressed me very gently saying: "Please hurry, madam, I will not sentence him to actual imprisonment."

The child was ordered to stand up as the verdict was pronounced: "Five months in jail, suspended for five years." Then the judge preached to the boy saying: "Today you were not punished for your violation. However, if you ever appear before me again as a suspect, I will pass a severe judgment against you and you will be in jail for a long time."

The child whispered to me: "Thank you." I saw him smile for the first time. However, I found it difficult to smile back. □

[Felicia Langer is an Israeli lawyer active in the defense of Palestinian political prisoners. This articles is part of her diary, which appears regularly in *al-Ittihad.*]

PORTRAIT OF AN ISRAELI RACIST

Gideon Alon

[Editor's Note: In our attempt to convey a realistic picture of Zionist racism within Israeli society and among world Jewry in general, we have published articles on the subject written by Israelis and Jews of various political persuasions in order to reflect the depth and breadth of Jewish hatred for Palestinians. The following article introduces yet another racist Jewish constituency rarely associated with Meir Kahane and the racist forces in Israel, namely, the Soviet Jewish immigrant community. This was translated from Hebrew by Professor Israel Shahak.]

"Jews! Hasn't the time come to put an end to bloodshed? Just don't tell me that it is impossible to put a stop to Arab terror. It is very much possible. Or rather it should be said that if there is no way to put an end to Aab terror, it is possible to put an end to the Arabs, who carry out this terror...There are far more simple solutions, and one of them is self-evident. The Arabs want to murder the Jews in Israel—in Jerusalem, Ma'alot and Hebron. Therefore we must make sure there are no Arabs in Israel and then there shall be no one to throw hand grenades and put bombs. The Arabs who live in Israel today should be removed from here and no other Arab should be allowed in...We should drive the Arabs out of here at once, today. We should have done it yesterday and thus we would have spared the lives of many Jews."

This is part of an article under the title "Drive Away the Arabs" published by Pinhas Gil (34) on 6 April 1984, in the Israeli Russian language weekly *Ness.* Together with another article by him, under the title "Hats Off to the Jewish Underground," these two articles were the reason that the Israeli governments' Attorney General, Prof. Zamir, ordered the police to open an investigation, the first of its kind in Israel against the man who wrote these articles and also against the editor of the weekly *Ness,* Rudy Portnoy, on the charge of incitement against Arabs.

Who is Pinhas Gil, the man who wrote these articles? At first he seems a nice person. A tall slim man wearing a Yarmulke. Black beard and glasses. He speaks slowly and calmly, is quiet, almost shy. Pinhas Gil was born in Moscow in 1950 to a secular Jewish family. He was called Pavel Gilmann. As a child he received hardly any Jewish education. He could hardly read any Hebrew. In 1971 he decided to emigrate to Israel. His parents and brothers remained in the USSR. When he arrived in Israel he decided to become religious. He studied at a Yeshiva. He served in the army. Then he went to the university and studied Jewish history and East European studies. He is married and has three children. He lives in Jerusalem and is general director of a book publishing company in the Russian language. Gil says that he identifies with the views, actions, and ideas of MK Kahane. "I am even more extreme than he is. He is too moderate in his relation to the Arabs." Nevertheless he did not take any active part in the election campaign with Kach and never got involved in any political activity. "I lack the time and strength for that. I have to provide for my family. But through my articles I try to persuade. The new immigrants from the USSR don't know the true situation, they are brainwashed. I try, in my articles in Russian, to tell them the truth."

He says that his articles published by *Ness* raised many responses. "Maybe what I wrote was somewhat extreme, but it definitely was not racist." He has no regrets: "I believe that the majority of the Jewish population in Israel thinks as I do, but not everyone dares say it so blatantly." Gil is convinced that no legal measures shall be taken against him. "Israel is a free country, why can't I express my views, especially since what I say is the truth." The weekly *Ness,* which published Gil's articles, sells some 5,000 copies among new immigrants from the USSR. The editor, Portnoy (49) immigrated from the USSR ten years ago. In the USSR he was a local journalist for *Izvestia.* In the past he had already published a paper called "Homeland" which went bankrupt. The weekly *Ness* was founded 18 months ago and is defined as an independent paper with articles about actual topics and which also supplies its readers with information on culture and entertainment. Gil's article "To Drive Away the Arabs" was published on its first page in a section called "Debate." His second article, which is one praise song for the Jewish underground does not direct its hatred only towards the Arabs, but also includes attacks on Yossi Sarid and Peace Now.

Gil wrote: "So the 'criminals' have been caught, and what is their crime? Their crime is that they were not afraid to do what should have been done long ago. It should not have been done by individuals, not even by a 'terror group,' but it should have been done by the State of Israel, its army and police. These people were not afraid to fight back and to cut off the Arab hand trying to clutch our throats. They were not afraid to tear off the legs of those bastards who deserve to be beheaded. These people had the courage to do it. Hats Off!"

"These people went out on dangerous misions not in order to show that they are 'heroes.' It is our cruel and crazy reality that forced them to become heroes...This shameful and disgusting reality...What's this absurdity? Where are we living? The State of Israel had not been

established so that Arabs would throw stones at Jews in Jerusalem. Why don't we hang the five murderer rapists in the central square of their village? Why isn't MK Muhammad Watad stopped from talking? Why don't we kill on the spot, with no chatter, Arabs who try to kill Jews? Why don't we cut the tongues of the guards of the Waqf on Temple Mount? What are we waiting for?"

"Why aren't the government, the army and police doing something? Has God taken our brains away? No, not from all of us. He left brains to those who are now in prison. God gave them brains and the will and strength to act. I don't know exactly what they had managed to do, but I hope that they (or some other Jews) indeed did tear off the legs of the mayors of Nablus and Ramallah and killed a few small snakes at the Islamic College in Hebron. I hope these men wanted to blow up the Arab buses and kill all the killers who drove them."

Let Them Go To The Moon

[Interview with Pinhas Gil]:

Q: ***Pinhas Gil, what made you hate the Arabs so deeply, were you hurt by them personally?***

A: Personally I have not been hurt. But I feel as a Jew, and you know the relations between Jews and Arabs. When I heard about the stone that killed Esther Ohana I felt as if it had hit me.

Q: ***What right do you have to propose to remove all the Arabs from here? This has been their home for generations. They definitely came here long before you came here from the USSR.***

A: They have been here only for three generations and have no right over the land. They know very well who has the right over this land. I have been living in Russia for five generations, did that give me any rights over the land there?

Q: ***But you surely would not want the Jews in Russia to be treated in the manner you propose to treat the Arabs living here?***

A: I wish the Russians would adopt the idea I propose for the Arabs and would let any Jew who desires so to leave. I fought for 18 months for a permit to leave and for that I had to pay 1,000 dollars and give up my citizenship.

Q: ***One could understand if you were demanding to intensify the struggle against terrorists who attack Jews, but why do you propose to drive away innocent Arabs?***

A: Because they disturb me. For 100 years we tried to live with them in peace, but it did not work. It is hopeless. Therefore there is only one solution: pay them compensation and make them leave. They can choose one out of 22 Arab states. Let them go wherever they want, to Morocco, Libya; as far as I'm concerned, even to the moon.

Q: ***Is it your intention to drive away all the Arabs from the territories?***

A: Not only them. The Israeli Arabs as well. If 50% of them voted for the Israeli Communist Party and 30% supported the Progressive List then they are hostile elements as well.

Q: ***Do you propose to use force in order to deport them?***

A: No. My proposal is humane. Give them compensation, load them on trucks and buses and send them away.

Q: ***And what about those who shall refuse?***

A: Use force.

Q: ***I understand that you support the actions of the Jewish terror group?***

A: Yes. I don't think they have committed any crime or offense. They just had no other choice. Things got too bad.

Q: ***If you identify with them, why haven't you joined them?***

A: If I had been living in Hebron maybe I would have joined them. I also admit I lack the courage for such actions. I am afraid.

Q: ***In your article you wrote "thank God there are men who tore off the legs of the mayors and killed a few small snakes." As a religious man, do you believe this is the right Way?***

A: Under the present conditions in the territories this is probably the only way to fight them. I don't mean this is the ideal situation. I would rather drive them away, but apparently there is no other way.

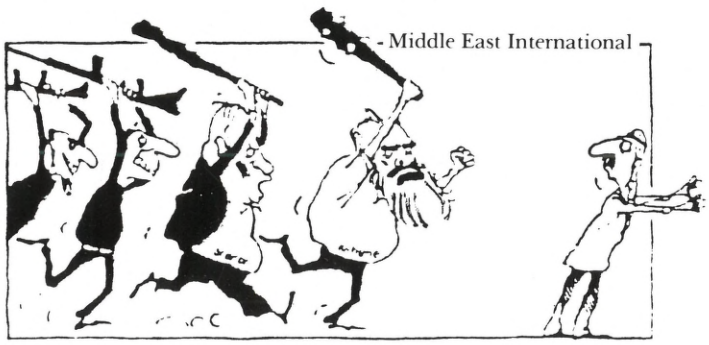
Q: ***Do you support laying bombs in Arab buses that transport old people, children and women who have committed no crime?***

A: Those who did it probably reached the conclusion that if they would blow up several Arab buses, things would be quiet for some months. I already told you, I prefer a more humane way: to deport them.

Q: ***Do you teach your children to hate Arabs?***

A: My children are still too young, but when they grow up I shall educate them in this direction.

[Pinhas Gil is a well-known figure in the Russian Jewish community in Israel which numbers over 100,000. He is secretary of the Shamir Publishing House and writes for the Russian language publications: Ness *and the* Jerusalemskaya Kurier. *The above article appeared originally in Hebrew in* Ha'aretz, *21 September 1984.]* □



PLO News and Views

SAMED CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

The third general conference of SAMED, coinciding with its 15th anniversary, was held in Amman, Jordan, between July 17 and 20, 1985. SAMED (The Sons of Martyrs Establishment) is the economic institution of the PLO, the equivalent of a Palestinian public economic sector. It maintains and operates factories and workshops, model farms, provides vocational training to Palestinian refugees and represents Palestine in international trade fairs. It also publishes *Samed al-Iqtisadi*, a journal on Palestinian economic affairs.

SAMED was one of the main targets during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, when many of its facilities were destroyed. According to SAMED Director, Abu 'Ala, $17 million worth of the organization's facilities were destroyed by the Israelis. In his statement to the Amman conference, he said that SAMED had reopened most of its facilities which now employ about 3,000 Palestinian and Lebanese workers.

The third conference approved a series of measures to rebuild SAMED and to enhance its role in the achievement of Palestinian economic objectives. Among these resolutions were the following:

1) Assistance in the marketing of products from the occupied territories.

2) Rebuilding the rest of SAMED facilities that were destroyed during the Israeli invasion.

3) The establishment of permanent committees to oversee the implementation of PLO economic and technical assistance agreements with friendly countries. □



Palestinian garment workers in SAMED factory

PALESTINIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA

A unique major reference on Palestine has been recently published. It is a four-volume *Palestinian Encyclopedia* with an average of more than 650 pages per volume. It is available only in Arabic.

The *Encyclopedia* is the result of a gigantic research effort which took ten years to complete. More than 200 researchers contributed to it.

The project began on 10 December 1974 when the PLO and the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ALESCO) signed an agreement to cooperate in the production of a Palestinian encyclopedia. A board of directors, an advisory committee and an editorial committee were formed to oversee the project.

The *Encyclopedia* is a comprehensive reference on Palestine: its history, land, culture, society, and problem. It covers all historical periods, from ancient history to the present, in addition to a broad spectrum of topics. It has information on individuals, places and events, and it deals with topics from Palestinian foods to peace proposals. It is the most complete reference on Palestine anywhere.

The four volumes just published are intended to be the first part of the *Encyclopedia*. Two other parts are planned. One of them will contain lengthy research articles on Palestine. The other will be devoted to maps, photographs, and statistical tables.

The *Encyclopedia* was published in Damascus, Syria, by the Palestinian Encyclopedia Association. It is distributed in the United States by the American Middle East Bookcenter, 210 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. □

QADDOUMI ON PROPOSED U.S. DIALOGUE

Farouq Qaddoumi, head of the PLO Political Department, called for an international conference to be attended by the United States and the Soviet Union as a basic condition for advancing the peace process. Qaddoumi stressed that peace in the Middle East can be achieved only through such a conference and within the UN framework.

On the question of dialogue between the United States and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, Mr. Qaddoumi told the Lebanese weekly *Al-Usbu' Al-Arabi*, that the Palestinian leadership seeks U.S. recognition of the PLO and of Palestinian national rights in return for PLO approval and participation in the peace process.

The PLO official expressed his belief that the U.S. administration is not serious about finding a just settlement in the Middle East. He said Washington continues to support Israeli ambitions in the occupied territories while maneuvering to avoid recognizing Palestinian national rights. The U.S. objective, according to Qaddoumi, is to divide Palestinian and Arab public opinion.

Qaddoumi added that the PLO still insists on maintaining its right to choose nominees for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and to take public credit for their nomination. It also demands that chosen delegates should carry letters of accreditation from the PLO. It has been reported that the U.S. does not want it to be publicly known that the Palestinians on the joint delegation are chosen by the PLO. □

ANALYSIS...
OCCUPATION IS DANGEROUS TO HEALTH

Do you remember when the Israeli occupation was glibly described in the U.S. media as "enlightened," "humane" and "benevolent"? A military occupation, of course, can never have any of these civilized attributes. By definition, it is a form of enslavement where one group of people holds another hostage at gunpoint. It is a brutal form of relationship among humans.

Fortunately, the myth did not last. But it died hard, and its Palestinian victims paid dearly for its demise. After years of increasingly explicit brutality, the Israeli occupation was exposed for what it really is: a cruel ordeal.

After 18 years of confiscating Palestinian land and water resources, blowing up homes, deporting people, banning books, censoring newspapers, closing schools and universities, and after years of settler terrorism and other forms of brutality, the Israeli occupation was not able to keep up its mask. But it continues to grind down its victims. And a few weeks ago, on the first of August, a hospital came in its path of destruction.

The closure of the Hospice Hospital is a severe blow to the 150,000 Palestinians whom it had served in and around Jerusalem. But its significance goes beyond its direct consequences. It is another indication that Israel knows no limits in its war against the Palestinian people.

Most people think of the Israeli occupation as a transgression against Palestinian political rights, which of course it is. But it is also a threat to their life and well-being. In that sense, Palestinian struggle against the occupation is not only an act of defense of an abstract political principle, but it is also an act of self-defense in the most literal meaning of the term.

At this stage in history it is infuriating enough that the Palestinians must explain, justify and defend their desire for self-determination. But it is absolutely unforgiveable that they must also justify self-defense through resistance to the Israeli occupation.

At this time when the world is rightly indignant about oppression in South Africa, is it not also time to be indignant about oppression in occupied Palestine? Oppression is repugnant because of what it is, not because of who perpetrates it against whom. □



From the latest massacre

Life Under Occupation

ATROCITIES AGAINST CAMPS CONTINUE

Arafat Warns of New Threats to Palestinians in Lebanon

Despite a Syrian-sponsored ceasefire which officially ended Amal attacks against Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut, Palestinians continue to be murdered, kidnapped and harassed by Shi'ite militia. According to a British surgeon just back from a month-long stay in the refugee camps, Palestinians are still being killed regularly, more than 1,500 Palestinians are missing since early June, and more than 20,000 camp residents who fled the area during the intense fighting are denied the right to come back to their homes in the camps by Lebanese authorities.

On July 5, Dr. Swee Chai Ang, an orthopedic surgeon and senior registrar at the British Royal Victoria Infirmary, headed a six-member team of nurses and medical technicians to Beirut to set up an operating theater at the Haifa hospital in Burj el-Barajneh camp to offer medical care to those wounded during the recent fighting. The team transported half-a-ton of medical equipment and supplies to Beirut purchased in Britain by the charity, Medical Aid for Palestinians.

In an interview with *The Sunday Times* (4 August 1985), Dr. Ang stated that upon her arrival in Beirut, she found that 638 Palestinian fighters and civilians had died during the Amal attacks. Most of the victims were buried in mass graves within the camps. More than 2,000 residents were injured. Local hospitals were destroyed or damaged during the fighting which led Dr. Ang to speculate that perhaps half the dead could have been saved if there had been proper medical facilities.

Dr. Ang, who witnessed the massacre of Sabra and Shatila in Sep-

(continued on page 7)

ISRAELIS CLOSE JERUSALEM HOSPITAL

The Israeli government closed down the Hospice Hospital, the only public hospital in occupied Arab Jerusalem. The hospital, which had been serving about 150,000 Palestinians in Jerusalem and its immediate area, was closed down on August 1st.

The Israelis have been preparing for the closure of the hospital for a number of years. In 1980 they closed the ear, nose and throat department, reduced the hospital staff by 26 per cent, and reduced its capacity from 120 to 50 beds. Its budget was slashed by 21 per cent in 1983.

Sources in the occupied territories believe that the closure of the hospital would be a severe blow to the Arab population of Jerusalem, especially the poorer people who cannot afford health insurance or private hospitals. They also believe that the Israeli decision is intended to intensify the pressure on Jerusalem's Arab residents to force them to leave the city.

The closure of the Hospice Hospital came at a time when demand for its services was increasing. According to a study by the Hospice Friends Committee (a local Palestinian group formed last year to protect the hospital), reported by *Al-Fajr Jerusalem Weekly* of 12 July 1985, the number of operations performed at the hospital increased by 33.6 per cent and the number of deliveries by 30 per cent in 1984.

The Hospice Hospital Friends offered to raise funds to keep the hospital open, but the Israeli authorities refused the offer and insisted on closing down the hospital. This act intensified suspicions that the Israeli decision was politically motivated.

The closure of the Hospice Hospital was the latest Israeli act to destroy Arab medical facilities in Jerusalem. When they occupied the West Bank in 1967, the Israelis converted a new hospital building to a police station. In 1974, they closed the medical laboratory, and in 1979, they closed down the tuberculosis center and the Arab Blood Bank. □

ATROCITIES *(continued from p.6)*

tember 1982, reported that the body of a Palestinian nurse who worked at the Akka hospital, near the destroyed Sabra refugee camp, was found on a rubbish dump on July 31 and examined by the surgeon. The nurse had been raped and then killed. In Sabra alone, 12 bodies have been found since early July. The bodies of 22 Palestinians were also recovered from a disused well near the camps.

During her month at Burj el-Barajneh, her team treated about 100 injuries a day. Many of the wounded needed medical treatment that was not available on the scene. Dr. Ang also described the inadequate health conditions in the camps which are endangering Palestinian lives in addition to the daily shootings. She stated that 20 children have died from diarrhea due to lack of water and sanitation in the camps. Furthermore, skin disease is common, according to *The Sunday Times*, because the 5,000-10,000 civilians estimated to be living in Sabra and Shatila—the worst damaged of the camps—have no water to wash with. Garbage is piled in the streets, and there are flies and rats. Dr. Ang said that there are severe gastric intestinal infections producing symptoms like those of cholera, but the disease cannot yet be verified.

Although the fighting between Amal militiamen and Palestinian fighters officially ended in June and the camps have been surrounded and "protected" by Lebanese army and internal security forces, residents who fled the area during the fighting are not being allowed to return there. Moreover, according to Dr. Ang, Palestinians who are currently in the camps are prevented by the Lebanese authorities from leaving the area. The British physician mentioned how she was prevented from moving one of her patients for x-rays outside the camp. The ambulance transporting the patient was turned back by the army checkpoint at the camp exit. Dr. Ang reported that as many as 30,000 Palestinians who are not allowed to return to their homes are afraid that they will be deported to the Beqaa Valley, an area under Syrian military control.

Arafat Alerts UN

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, sent a message on 2 August 1985, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar calling on him to intervene immediately to prevent new massacres against the Palestinians residing in refugee camps in Lebanon. The message was delivered by Riyad Mansour, deputy PLO observer at the United Nations.

Dr. Mansour said that Arafat's message urges the UN Secretary General to exert every effort to prevent new massacres of Palestinians in Lebanon in light of the introduction of tanks given to Amal militiamen by the Syrian government. Chairman Arafat expressed Palestinian concern over the possibility that these tanks might be used by Amal to launch new attacks against Palestinian camps in West Beirut and around the city of Sidon in southern Lebanon.

Meanwhile, PLO officials have also asked the Arab countries, particularly those participating in the Arab Summit held 7-8 August in Casablanca, to intervene in order to end the killing of Palestinians in Lebanon. Palestinian efforts in this regard have intensified following the murder of four PLO officials near Sidon on 27 July. Their bullet-riddled bodies were discovered in an olive grove outside Ein el-Hilwe refugee camp. Palestinian sources fear a replay of the June "Camps War" in southern Lebanon. □

NO ~~JEWS~~ ARABS ALLOWED

The local council of the Israeli settlement of Kiryat Arba, in the occupied West Bank, has reached an agreement among its various political factions to dismiss all Arab workers and to ban business partnerships between Arabs and Jews. The few Arabs employed by Kiryat Arba's municipality work in menial jobs such as cleaning streets.

Liberal Israeli members of the Knesset have been asking the attorney-general to order the local council to rescind the racist pact. □

ISRAEL FORBIDS CULTURAL FESTIVAL

The Israeli authorities are obstructing a Palestinian Heritage Festival by threatening to withhold funds from Arab municipalities in Israel which make public areas available to it. They also threatened the municipalities with withholding approval of their budgets and projects. As a consequence, the sponsor of the festival, the Research Center for Arab Heritage, decided to postpone it till the end of September. It is possible that the festival may have to be cancelled altogether.

The Research Center for Arab Heritage was established in the Palestinian town of Taibeh in August 1984, when it organized the First Annual Festival of Palestinian Heritage. Its purpose is to preserve Palestinian culture against Israeli efforts to suppress it. The Center's director, Saleh Baransi, has been constantly harassed by the Israeli authorities. He was imprisoned for a total of more than twelve years for his political activities and views, and he had to spend twenty years under house and town arrest.

ALTERNATIVE INFORMATION

A new Israeli organization called "Alternative Information Center" has been established in Jerusalem. The Center describes itself as a "counter service" designed to provide to interested people an alternative to the Israeli official line on events in Israel and the occupied territories.

In a statement announcing the Center's new weekly report, Michael Warschawski said that "whereas the Israeli establishment and its various stalwarts have built up a variegated and well-oiled apparatus for the dissemination of the official line, it has been extremely difficult to obtain informative information." The Center's report, according to the statement, is intended to free people from the need to "rely solely on the official Israeli propaganda machine." □

"South Africa is thought to be a leading purchaser of arms from Israel, acquiring as much as 35 percent of Israeli arms exports during the past two decades."
William Claiborne
The Washington Post
12 August 1985

WORTH READING

Periodically, *Palestine Perspectives* recommends to its readers recent books on the Palestinians, the occupied territories and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The following is another list of recent books worth reading on these subjects:

- Jan Demarest Abu-Shakrah, and others, ***Israeli Settler Violence in the Occupied Territories*** (Chicago: Palestine Human Rights Campaign, 1985). [Report in this issue].
- George W. Ball, ***Error and Betrayal in Lebanon*** (Washington, DC: Foundation for Middle East Peace, 1984)
- Jimmy Carter, ***The Blood of Abraham*** (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1985).
- Paul Findley, ***They Dare to Speak Out*** (Westport, Connecticut: Lawrence Hill, 1985). [See review in this issue.]
- Hassan Haddad and Donald Wagner, ***All in the Name of the Bible*** (Chicago: Palestine Human Rights Campaign, 1985).
- Alan Hart, ***Arafat: Terrorist or Peacemaker?*** (London: Sidgwick & Jackson, 1984).
- Walid Khalidi, ***Before Their Diaspora: A Photographic Story of the Palestinians, 1876-1948*** (Washington, DC: Institute for Palestine Studies, 1984).
- John P. Richardson, ***The West Bank: A Portrait*** (Washington, DC: The Middle East Institute, 1984).
- Joseph Schechla, ***The Iron Fist: Israel's Occupation of South Lebanon, 1982-1985*** (Washington, DC: American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, 1985).
- Merle Thorpe, ***Prescription for Conflict: Israel's West Bank Settlement Policy*** (Washington, DC: Foundation for Middle East Peace, 1984).

Life Under Occupation

NAJAH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CLOSED

The Israeli occupation authorities imposed a four-day curfew on the West Bank city of Nablus and ordered the closure of Najah National University for two months after an Israeli settler was shot and killed in the city's marketplace.

Israeli soldiers invaded the campus of the largest Palestinian university in the West Bank claiming that it had been used for meetings and "incitement" against the Israeli occupation. A spokesman for the Israeli occupation army claimed that "inflammatory" material which encouraged "terrorist" actions against Israel was found on campus during the July 31 raid.

University officials denied the Israeli allegations and described the closure as part of an "Israeli collective punishment campaign" meant to appease extremist Jewish settlers who advocate an "iron fist" policy in the occupied territories. Saeb Eraikat, spokesman for Najah University, said the closure will delay this year's graduation until late November and will disrupt the registration process for next fall's freshman class.

Eraikat explained that "the political conflict is being transformed into a racist conflict by the authorities in Israel." He said that "the action will add to the obstacles to real contact between the two peoples... Now they have 3,500 angry students" in the area.

Najah University was closed many times before, including four months in the summer of 1983. Palestinian universities in the occupied territories have been the target of an intense campaign by Jewish settlers who call for their permanent closure. □



COMMENTARY . . .
THE EVASION OF PEACE

One of the most popular ways to evade peace in the Middle East is to hide behind something called "the complexity of the issues." This is particularly true of the Palestine question, the pivotal issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Palestine question is said to be so complicated and "intractable" that it nearly defies comprehension, let alone resolution. One is led to believe that it requires true genius (a quality which has not been historically abundant among ruling elites, especially lately), to grasp let alone to grapple with that problem.

Leaving aside the apparent contradiction that "Middle East experts" are so numerous that they are tripping over each other in Washington, it must be stressed that the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question are really much simpler than they are made out to be. The Israelis say that all they want from the Arabs is to be allowed to live in peace in a country of their own. The Arabs say that all they want from Israel is to allow the Palestinians to live in peace in a country of their own. They both say that if there is one place in the world where this miracle can happen it is Palestine. The world community agrees. What is the problem?

Who speaks for the Palestinians? Ask them. What do the Palestinians want? Ask them. What are they willing to settle for? Are they willing to negotiate? Would they recognize Israel? Would they abandon armed struggle? Why not ask them?

Would the Palestinians be satisfied with perpetual denial of their national rights? Again, ask them (unless you are blessed with common sense, fortunately a widespread gift, and recognize the obvious when you see it).

Then why all the feigned confusion and the obfuscation of the issues? Is it to evade the logical conclusion: that peace is attainable but not profitable to one of the parties, Israel, which had made out like a bandit as a result of unending conflict?

Aldous Huxley once called our attention to the moral primacy of means over ends. It is not the end sought but the means pursued, he said, which determine the nobility of an endeavor. It is hypocritical to pat oneself on the back for wanting peace and then to obstruct it by demanding that one of the parties, in this case the Palestinians, surrender to the will of the others. To demand from the Palestinians, under the threat of exclusion from the peace process (to put it mildly) to select representatives acceptable to their adversaries, and to abandon in advance their right to self-government, and then to expect them to "deliver" on any deal which emerges from such a stacked deck of cards is to gamble with the future. Durable peace requires a fair deal not a "crooked game." And durable peace is something in which not only the Palestinians have a stake, but all of the peoples of the Middle East and all of the parties which have interests in the region and its future.

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REPORT ON SETTLER VIOLENCE

"Occupation is Unjust, Arbitrary, Repressive and Brutalizing"

The Palestine Human Rights Campaign, an American coalition of peace, church, and human rights groups concerned with the Palestine problem, released a new study focusing on Jewish settler terrorism agains Palestinians in the Israeli occupied territories of 1967. The report was released before representatives of American and Arab media in a press conference held at the National Press Building in Washington, D.C., on July 17, 1985. The conference was conducted by PHRC National Director Reverend Donald E. Wagner and Henry Schwarzschild, member of the PHRC Board of Directors.

The new report, entitled "Israeli Settler Violence in the Occupied Territories: 1980-1984," is the outcome of an 18-month research project conducted by PHRC staff in cooperation with the Jerusalem-based Arab Studies Society and Arab Thought Forum, two Palestinian institutions specialized in research and documentation of Palestinian culture and sociopolitical development. The study, according to Reverend Wagner, is "the first nongovernmental, privately initiated report on the subject of Jewish settler violence in the occupied territories." Wagner explained that the report not only offers extensive documentation of settler violence against Palestinian civilians and public institutions, but presents these acts of violence in a broader context to expose the role of the Israeli government and its military establishment in the occupied territories, in addition to the direct role of the Jewish settlers.

The July 10 conviction of Israeli settlers by a Jerusalem court revealed many details of terrorist activities against Palestinians which the Israeli government suppressed in the past. Yet the violent activities of the Jewish Terrorist Underground Network, according to PHRC officials, "represents only

the tip of a very large and complicated problem."

Mr. Schwarzschild, an American Jew and a prominent member of the American Civil Liberties Union, emphasized the sharp increase in settler violence between 1980-1984. He explained that military occupation in general tends to be by definition "deeply unjust, arbitrary, repressive and brutalizing." Palestinian life under Israeli occupation, he added, is marked by "extraordinary repressiveness and incipient terror." Schwarzschild concluded that although the report does not specifically deal with the underlying reasons for this phenomenon of violence against Palestinians, he personally traces its roots to the exclusive Jewish nature of the Israeli state, whereby non-Jews are not and simply could not be treated as equal citizens. He also pointed out that the "civilianization" of Israeli occupation did not alleviate repression and brutality, on the contrary it made occupation more repressive by taking away the "temporary" nature of Israeli occupation and leading to progressive annexation.

The report itself details how an officially-confirmed terrorist organization operates within the ranks of the Jewish settler movement and offers statistical data to illustrate the increasing number of unpunished crimes committed against the civilian population in the occupied territories. Professor Henry Rosenfeld of Haifa University described the PHRC study as "a well-written, intelligent, and eminently balanced study...(which) points to the collusion between settlers, the military, and government officials and offices in permitting ongoing violence against Palestinian Arabs." Professor Emeritus Yeshayahu Leibowitz of the Hebrew University stated that "All the facts of the oppression and the atrocities (presented in this report) are probably true, but they are the natural consequences of the politics of occupation and domination.... There is no prospect or possibility of peace, not even a discussion of peace, as long as we (Israelis) hold on to the occupation of the conquered territories." □

SELF-DECLARED SPOKESMEN

In a press conference organized by the Holy Land State Committee in Washington on the first of July, a statement by Rabbi Elmer Berger, President of the American Jewish Alternatives to Zionism, said "uncounted numbers of American Jews ...reject, categorically, Israel's extra-territorial claims that they are part of 'the Jewish people' possessing supra-national nationality rights in and obligations to the Zionist state."

Dr. Berger was particularly critical of those who promote the erroneous impression that there is a monolithic "American Jewish community" which has a uniform and distinct position on social and political issues. He said that a "small fraternity of self-declared spokesmen for this so-called community" arrogates for itself the right to represent it, and politicians and the media uncritically accept this false claim. "Almost none of the broadcasters," he said, "ever investigates how many American Jews regard themselves as members of a separately perceived 'community' or know anything about the credentials of the self-proclaimed 'community' representatives." He accused them of "degrading" the democratic process by ignoring the right of voluntary association.

To demonstrate how misleading the concept of "the American Jewish community" is, Dr. Berger cited examples of dissent among American Jews, including the fact that many of them favor recognition of the PLO, oppose Israel's practice of holding political prisoners and continued Israeli military presence in the south of Lebanon. □

THE LAND

One day I will hold a wedding
for the land
We will drink in osmosis
I from her and she from me
That Galilee may remain
Free to love or fight for a land
that dawns over me
Nestling closer and closer to me.

Rashid Hussein

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- **Muhammad Hallaj,** Editor, *Palestine Perspectives*
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- **Grace Halsell,** Author, *Journey to Jerusalem*
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Americana Congress Hotel, 520 S. Michigan, Chicago, Il. For more information write: PHRC Conference, 220 S. State St., Suite 1308, Chicago, IL 60604; or call (312) 987-1830

THE MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE

39th Annual Conference

The Middle East Institute will hold its 39th Annual Conference—**"Seeking New Paths Through the Middle East Labyrinth"**—27-28 September 1985 at the Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, DC. All are encouraged to join approximately 700 guests in hearing Egypt's Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. **Ismat Abdel Maguid,** Senator **Charles Percy** and other distinguished experts address problems in contemporary Middle East politics. For further details and registration information please call (202) 785-1141.

BOOK REVIEW

THEY DARE TO SPEAK OUT

They Dare to Speak Out: People and Institutions Confront Israel's Lobby, by *Paul Findley*. Westport, Connecticut: Lawrence Hill & Company, 1985. 332 pages + notes and index. $16.95.

"A dangerous erosion of free speech is occuring in the United States." This is the conclusion reached by former congressman Paul Findley from his study of the Israeli lobby's campaign to silence dissent from Israeli policy in the United States. In our opinion, this conclusion understates the findings of the book which presents evidence of intimidation and even violence which not only erode free speech but also jeopardize American democracy itself.

It is ironic that while one of the arguments used to explain and justify U.S. policy in the Middle East is that it is the product of democratic decision making, it is in fact one of the most glaring and persistent deviations from the democratic process. When it comes to the Middle East, the American political system breaks down and functions in the most real sense as a government by the few: the Israeli lobby.

Furthermore, the Israeli lobby is unique among special interests which litter the American political scene in two important ways which distinguish it from other lobbies and makes it a detrimental influence on American democracy: One, it serves a foreign power rather than a domestic region or constituency. Two, it is not content with mere influence in the councils of government, but it fights dissent from its views throughout American society and works to stifle debate over one of the most vital issues affecting American security and interests. By intimidating dissenters in the churches, universities, the media and even within the Jewish community itself, as well as in government, the Israeli lobby not only derails the political process but also disfigures the social environment which nurtures it. These are the disturbing conclusions which emerge from Findley's study of the Israeli lobby.

Findley shared the experience of a few other legislators who dared to speak out and lost favor with the Israeli lobby. In 1982, after 22 years of service in the U.S. Congress, his political career was terminated. He wanted to know if his "experience at the hands of the Israeli lobby" was "just politics" or if it was "a part of a broader attempt to silence criticism of Israeli policy." He asked himself: "Do other Congressmen and officials of government encounter similar pressures? What about people in other occupations—on the campus, in business, the pulpit, the news rooms, in everyday life?" ***They Dare to Speak Out*** is the record of his search for answers to these questions.

Findley's book is not really about the Arab-Israeli conflict or even U.S. policy in the Middle East. It is about the abuse of American democracy. It is a well-documented account, based on actual events and cases of how the Israeli lobby, working not only with Zionist groups in the United States but also with the Israeli government and its agencies, serves as an instrument of Israeli policy in the United States. The book is an account of how the lobby persuades, punishes, rewards, cajoles, harasses and intimidates policy and opinion makers to secure unquestioned backing for Israel's needs and objectives, and to silence not only opposition but also debate and inquiry about them.

The book goes beyond the lobby's influence in Congress, the natural habitat of lobbies, and demonstrates its presence and influence in the White House, in the Departments of State and Defense, and outside the government in the various hatcheries of public opinion. The account of the lobby's work to intimidate academic institutions is particularly disturbing, and the fact that it works defies comprehension in this post-McCarthy era. No less

(continued on page 12)

"I'll Take Care of the Congress"

Admiral Thomas Moorer recalls a dramatic example of Israeli lobby power from his days as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. At the time of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war Mordecai Gur, the defense attaché at the Israeli embassy who later became commander-in-chief of Israeli forces, came to Moorer demanding that the U.S. provide Israel with aircraft equipped with high technology air-to-surface anti-tank missile called the Maverick. At the time, the U.S. had only one squadron so equipped. Moorer recalls telling Gur:

"I can't let you have those aircraft. We have just one squadron. Besides, we've been testifying before the Congress convincing them we need this equipment. If we gave you our only squadron, Congress would raise hell with us."

Moorer looks at me with a steady piercing gaze that must have kept a generation of ensigns trembling in their boots: "And do you know what he said? Gur told me, 'You get us the airplanes; I'll take care of the Congress.' " Moorer pauses, then adds, "And he did." America's only squadron equipped with Mavericks went to Israel.

Moorer, speaking in his office in Washington as a senior counselor at the Georgetown University Center for Strategic and International studies, says he strongly opposed the transfer but was overruled by "political expediency at the presidential level." He notes President Richard Nixon was then in the throes of Watergate. "But," he adds,

"I've never seen a President—I don't care who he is—stand up to them [the Israelis]. It just boggles your mind.

"They always get what they want. The Israelis know what is going on all the time. I got to the point where I wasn't writing anything down.

"If the American people understood what a grip those people have got on our government, they would rise up in arms. Our citizens don't have any idea what goes on."

They Dare to Speak Out, p. 161

BAY AREA PROTEST

About 500 people demonstrated in front of the Israeli consulate in San Francisco on June 6, protesting U.S.-Israeli collaboration in South Africa, Central America and the Middle East. The demonstration was held on the third anniversary of Israel's invasion of Lebanon and the 18th anniversary of its occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights.

A press release issued by the Ad Hoc Committee to End U.S.-Israeli Complicity in South Africa, Central America and the Middle East, said that the demonstration was sponsored by 29 organizations representing solidarity groups interested in these regions and was addressed, among others, by spokespersons from the African National Congress, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and Jewish Women for a Secular Middle East.

The demonstrators circulated a petition, addressed to Senator Alan Cranston and four members of Congress from the Bay Area, protesting U.S. policy in South Africa, Central America, and the Middle East. In reference to the Middle East, the petition expressed objection to the following elements of Israeli policy:

1. Israel's escalation of military, economic and political relations with the apratheid South African regime, including the joint development of nuclear weapons.
2. Israel's arming of the Contras, which accounts for 25 per cent of the total aid they receive.
3. Israel's provision of arms and military advisors and counter-insurgency technology to the military dictatorship in Guatemala, where more than 40,000 Indians have been murdered.
4. Israel's involvement, with advisors and arms, in El Salvador.

The petition concludes by urging Senator Cranston and his congressional colleagues "to reexamine your past endorsement of Israeli policies that have resulted in an apartheid situation in the occupied West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights and the invasion and occupation of Lebanon." □



REVIEW *(continued from page 11)*
reprehensible is the lobby's effort to deliberately undermine U.S.-Arab relations to the detriment of U.S. interests in the middle East.

They Dare to Speak Out should be of interest not only to readers interested in U.S. policy in the Middle East, but also and especially to people concerned about the corrupting influences on American democracy. Not only its subject is important, but it is well-written, and its author's access to people and information makes it uniquely informative. □



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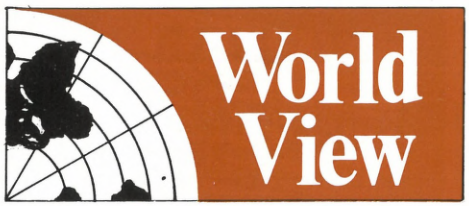
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WORLD SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN WOMEN

"Security in a Liberated Homeland"

The World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women deplored the oppression of Palestinian women in the Israeli-occupied territories and affirmed their right "to enjoy security in a liberated homeland." The resolution, adopted by the July 15-26 international conference held in Nairobi, Kenya, was approved by 97 delegations and opposed by only three: Israel, the United States, and Australia.

The resolution on Palestinian women and children was part of a world strategy for the advancement of the rights of women for the period 1986-2000. In this sense, it is a long-range international commitment to protect Palestinian women and children living under Israeli occupation and a pledge to assist them and the Palestinian people in the achievement of their national rights.

A participant in the conference told *Palestine Perspectives* that the Israeli and U.S. delegations fought a vicious battle, which included threats that repelled many delegations, in an unsuccessful bid to obstruct the endorsement of the pro-Palestinian resolution. Below is the full text of the resolution on Palestinian women and children approved by the Nairobi conference:

Palestinian Women and Children

1. For more than three decades, Palestinian women have faced difficult living conditions in camps and outside, struggling for the survival of their families and the survival of the Palestinian people who were deprived of their ancestral lands and denied the inalienable rights to return to their homes and their property, their right to self-determination, national independence and sovereignty. Palestinian women are vulnerable to imprisonment, torture, reprisals and other oppressive practices by Israel in the occupied Arab territories. The confiscation of land and the creation of further settlements has affected the lives of Palestinian women and children. Such Israeli measures and practices are a violation of the Geneva Convention. The Palestinian woman as part of her nation suffers from discrimination in employment, health care and education.

2. The situation of violence and destabilization which exists in southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights put Arab women and children who are living under Israeli occupation in severe situations. Lebanese women are also suffering from discrimination and detention. Therefore, all relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular Security Council resolutions 508 (1982) and 509 (1982), should be implemented.

3. The implementation of the Program of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights should be kept under review and coordinated between the United Nations units and agencies concerned with emphasis on the role of Palestinian women in preserving their national identity, traditions and heritage and in the struggle for sovereignty. The Palestinian people must recover their rights to self-determination and the right to establish an independent state in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions. The special and immediate needs of Palestinian women and children should be identified and appropriate provisions made. United Nations projects should be initiated to help Palestinian women in the fields of health, education, and vocational training. Their living conditions inside and outside the occupied territories should be studied by the appropriate United Nations units and agencies assisted, as appropriate, by specialized research institutes from various regions. The results of these studies should be given broad publicity to promote action at all levels. The international community should exert all efforts to stop the establishment of new Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Palestinian women should be allowed to enjoy security in a liberated homeland also in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

TRAVEL BAN ON PALESTINIAN WOMEN

The Israeli occupation authorities imposed a travel ban on Palestinian women from the occupied territories who intended to attend the UN international women conference in Nairobi.

The Coordinating Committee of Women's Organizations in the Occupied Territories protested the ban and sent a message to the Nairobi conference. The message said that "the Israeli concept of development translates into settlements and the Judaization of the country at the expense of uprooting and dispersing one part of the Palestinian people and the subjection of the other. □

CHINA: NO ARMS DEAL WITH ISRAEL

China denied widely circulated press reports about a secret deal to buy Israeli weapons by China. A Chinese government spokesman called such reports "entirely groundless." He added that these reports have been circulated by people who want to undermine China's good relations with Arab countries. The Foreign Ministry spokesman, Li Zhaoxing said "We have taken note that some people, out of different motives, have spread rumors over this issue over a period of time in a futile attempt to undermine the friendly relations between China and Arab countries and the Palestinian people."

Press reports of Chinese purchases of weapons from Israel were based on information from foreign diplomats in Peking. Such information said that China was buying Israeli weapons to circumvent a western ban on arms sales to communist countries. □

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In Brief

ISRAEL'S WHITE ELEPHANT

There is increasing realization in the United States that U.S. funding of Israel's scheme to develop and build a fighter plane, the Lavi, is a costly mistake. In addition to the fact that Congress, by allocating money for the Israeli project, is subsidizing foreign competition to American industry, it is now believed that the Lavi, if produced, would fly badly. An American source quoted by the *Aerospace Daily* (11 July 1985) called the Lavi a "white elephant."

BYE BYE $17 BILLION

Israel wants the United States to forget and forgive $17 billion it owes the U.S. in previous military purchases. Stranger than Israel's request is that the administration is considering it. For several years, all U.S. aid to Israel has been given as outright grants. Israel wants the gift to be retroactive. One is tempted to say: with such a "strategic asset" who needs liabilities?

MEMORIAL DAY BOYCOTT

The Other Israel, the newsletter of the Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, reported in its June 1985 issue that a group of Israeli parents who lost their sons in the Lebanese war boycotted Memorial Day celebrations because the official participants included government ministers who oppose the formation of a commission of inquiry on the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

RESISTANCE GROWS

Israeli police sources reported a sharp increase in Palestinian acts of armed resistance to the Israeli occupation. These sources reported 34 acts of armed resistance (called acts of terror by the Israelis) in the month of June. They attributed the escalation of Palestinian resistance to competition among various PLO groups. They also said that in most cases the weapons used were homemade and "primitive," indicating a shortage of arms.

THE KAHANE YOUTH

A recent public opinion poll, conducted by the Israeli Leer Institute, revealed that 40 per cent of Israeli youth support Rabbi Meir Kahane or the racist ideas he publicly advocates. The result of the poll, according to *Ha'aretz* of 6 June 1985, were so shocking that those who conducted the poll decided not to publicize the results.

Kahane's movement has been recruiting Israeli youth, for whom it has organized a movement called "Tanach."

SECULAR-RELIGIOUS RIFT INCREASING

Relations between secular and religious Jews in Israel are worse today than they were five years ago, according to a recent public opinion poll. The poll, conducted by Gesher, an Israeli organization which tries to reconcile secular and religious Israeli Jews, showed that 35 per cent of the religious Jews and 55 per cent of the secular Jews polled agreed that the secular-religious rift in Israel is increasing and that it has become more serious than the rift between eastern and western Jews. The secular-religious rift in Israel is the main reason why the country has no written constitution.

"QUOTE UNQUOTE"

"Zionism is in total contradiction with western democracy as we know it, and in Judaism no non-Jew has a right to be a citizen of a Jewish state."

Rabbi Meir Kahane (MK)
Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)
25 July 1985

"Daily life in Israel teaches just the opposite of democratic values. The 1.5 million Arabs in the [occupied] territories have been living under Israeli occupation for 18 years—living alongside Israelis without sharing their rights."

Danny Rubinstein
New York Times
16 July 1985

"It is easier to criticize Israel in the Knesset [Israeli parliament] than it is in the U.S. Congress, here in this land of free speech."

Congressman Mervyn Dymally
Quoted by Paul Findley
They Dare to Speak Out
Page 77

"We have to understand that anyone who disqualifies the PLO is nullifying the entire political process."

Matti Steinberg
Al-Hamishmar (Israel)
7 June 1985

"Peace will come only after the PLO is admitted as a legitimate party to the peace process, just as it is recognized as an unavoidable party to the conflict."

Matti Peled (MK)
The Other Israel
June 1985

"The Middle East is perplexing and frustrating. But things become no clearer when a region or a people gets labeled as bad or evil—dehumanized by rhetoric so that their deaths are not supposed to matter. That says nothing about them. It does, though, say a lot about us."

Richard Cohen
The Washington Post
6 July 1985

"We should remember that we are in a state of war here with a people [the Palestinians] which has been pushed into a corner. The only thing the extremists among us are saying to these people is that they must either become accustomed to Israeli occupation, commit national suicide, or leave their homes and villages. We shouldn't wonder, then, that the Palestinians have resorted to arms and sabotage."

Ze'ev Schiff
Christian Science Monitor
30 July 1985

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS?

"Bigotry, Like Justice, Is Blind"

The Israelis are finding out what Abraham Lincoln meant when he said that a house cannot long stand half slave and half free. And they are finding out that a society cannot be racist and democratic at the same time.

Self-proclaimed Israeli racists, like Rabbi Meir Kahane, have always said that Israel cannot be both Jewish *and* democratic. In this world of pluralist societies, no state can be democratic if it grants special privileges and confers an advantaged status by law on a particular group of citizens. Israel and South Africa are the principal examples of states which have the dubious distinction of being based on such a principle. South Africa used color, and Israel uses religion to separate the elect from the damned. Israel's Law of Return (1950), which is one of its Fundamental (constitutional) Laws, makes religion a requirement for such a basic right as the right to live in the country and to acquire its citizenship. In that sense, Israel practices a more exclusivist system of *apartheid* than South Africa does.

So far, Israel's "democracy" was blemished by its treatment of its "non-Jewish" citizens, although non-European Jews also experienced a degree of discrimination. Now, it appears that bigotry, like justice, is blind. It eventually devours its own children. Israel's selective democracy is reaching out to touch others beyond the circle of its traditional outcasts.

In its *Report* (No. 15 of 25 July 1985), the Israeli Alternative Information Center reviewed recent anti-democratic trends in the Knesset, Israel's legislative body. "The Knesset House Committee," the *Report* said, "is turning the institution of parliamentary immunity into a travesty" by depriving an Arab member (Miari) of his parliamentary immunity because of his political views while refusing to withdraw the immunity of a Jewish member (Shlomo Amar) who is suspected of criminal acts unrelated to his political beliefs.

The *Report* also listed recent legislative proposals calculated to stifle political dissent in Israel's highest political forum, the Knesset. Among these are proposed laws to do the following:

1. To ban political parties from representation in parliament if they win less than 5 per cent of the total popular vote. (Currently the limit is one per cent). This measure is designed to disfranchise opposition groups.
2. To prohibit Israelis from meeting with Palestinians associated with the PLO. A sentence of three years in prison is proposed for this "crime."
3. To ban electoral lists whose political platforms or positions are likely to "help the enemy." As the *Report* put it, "what criticism of the government does not aid the enemy?"

These proposed laws are not really aimed at Israel's Arab citizens. Israel already has more than enough laws and rules to disfranchise them as a group. They are intended to nip in the bud *Jewish-Israeli* dissent from the ruling Zionist establishment.

Explicit Israeli racists like Rabbi Kahane want Israel to solve its dilemma (Jewish or democratic?) by getting rid of its "non-Jewish" citizens, the remnants of Palestinian society. The Zionist establishment is opting for a more "egalitarian" solution: it wants to disfranchise Jews also.

So, when a house is half slave and half free, for whom does the bell toll in the end? □

THE OTHER ISRAEL

Discrimination against non-European Jews is still practiced in Israel. This was the conclusion of many presentations made before the 21st annual America-Israel dialogue held recently in Jerusalem. The annual dialogue is a meeting of American and Israeli Jews sponsored by the American Jewish Committee.

One speaker, Hebrew University anthropologist Jeff Halper, spoke of "the sense of alienation and rage among Afro-Asian Jews who were 'deculturized' by the Ashkenazim." Nina Weiner, president of the International Sephardi Educational Foundation, said that "only 5 per cent of Israel's Ph.D. population is Sephardi." Most Sephardi students in Israel get channelled into vocational rather than academic institutions. They end up constituting the bulk of Israel's working class. Israel's Sephardi population is 60 per cent of the total.

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