

PEACE WHEN THERE IS NO PEACE

A Paper Written For
THE ROUND TABLE OF EUGENE
by PERCY W. BROWN
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INTRODUCTION

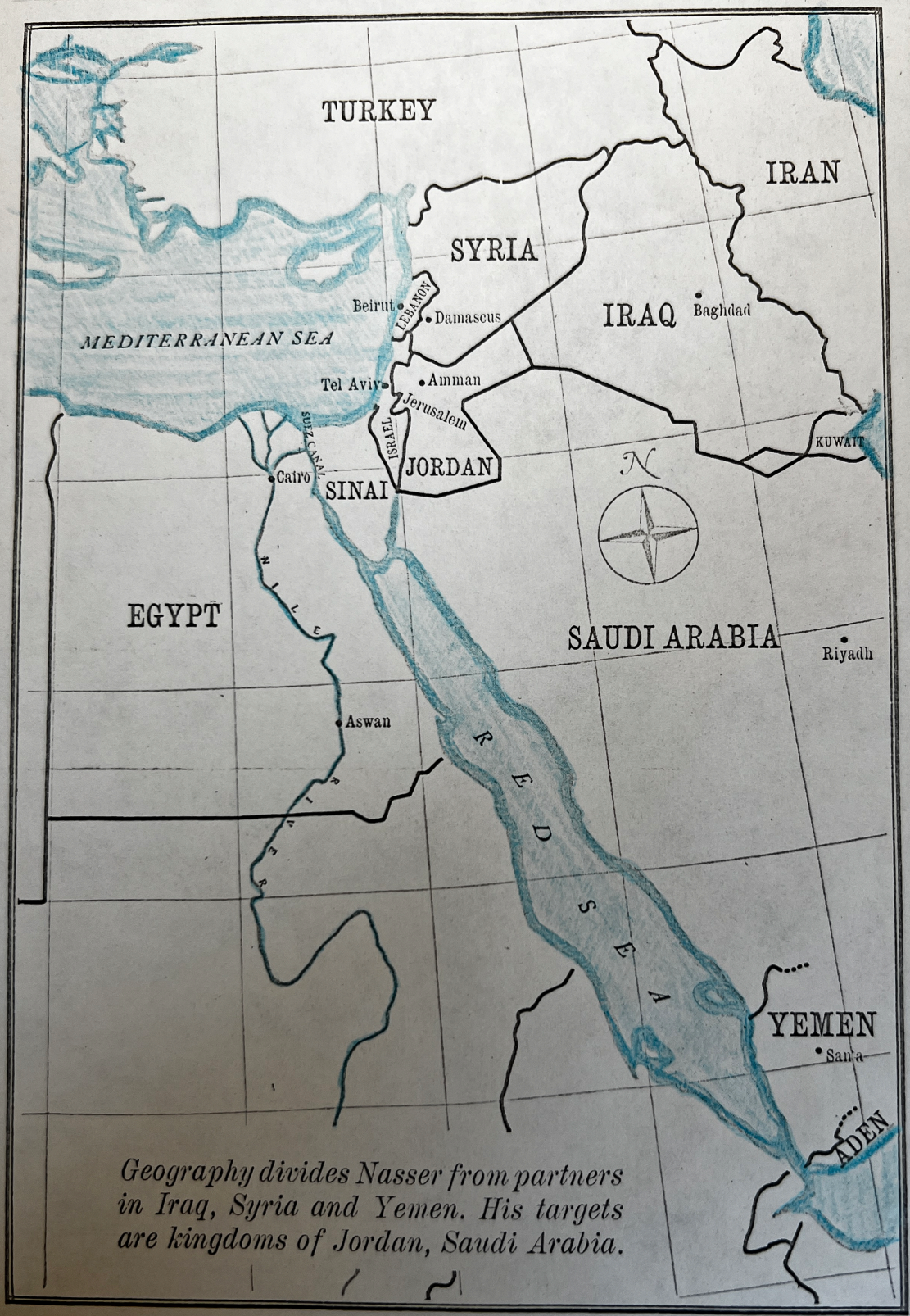
The schoolteacher asked Johnny one day: "What is the shape of the world?" Johnny replied: "Dad says that it is in a hell of a shape."

Many of the long established nations have serious internal difficulties as well as external troubles. Many new nations have been organized in recent years with incapable and ill-prepared leadership and without sufficient knowledge of the arts and principles of government.

Among the troubles plaguing the world today and in recent times may be mentioned the Korean War, the emergence of Red China, the Berlin Wall and divided Germany, the Congo troubles, Cuba; any one of which might have, and may yet, erupt into open hostilities; and also Viet Nam, which has already done so. These situations confirm fully the opinion of Johnny's dad.

The situation that I propose to discuss has been threatening to break out into open warfare for 18 years, and had been simmering for many years before that. It is the Arab-Israel conflict, caused by the efforts of the Zionist organization of Jewish peoples to form a nation in territory belonging to other nations. Each side constantly threatens to attack the other upon commission of an overt act. Even as this paper is being written, border raids, shootings and killings are taking place. But Great Britain and the United States, together with the United Nations, have managed to keep a peace of sorts, but with constant effort and difficulty. This is literally a case of "PEACE WHEN THERE IS NO PEACE."

I became intensely interested in this situation through a 2-months stay in the Middle East some four years ago; and though without background in or knowledge of international law, have attempted to come to some conclusion as to the "right or wrong" of the parties to the conflict.



Geography divides Nasser from partners in Iraq, Syria and Yemen. His targets are kingdoms of Jordan, Saudi Arabia.

MAP OF MIDDLE EAST AREA

The period of Jewish occupation of Palestine extends from about 1200, B.C., the time of the conquest under Joshua, to 636 A.D., although the country had been dominated militarily and politically by various other nations in succession during that period. At that date the armies of Islam broke the power of the Byzantine Empire and incorporated the area into the Empire of Islam, although Arabs had been living there before that date. Since that time the Middle East, and particularly Palestine, with which this study is concerned, has been peopled principally by Arabs. Writers on Palestine have attempted to build elaborate chronological scales on which to weigh the rights of the respective peoples on a basis of tenure, but have not been able to arrive at any satisfactory answer.

THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED

The countries involved in the controversies discussed herein are the ones which were carved out of the land taken from Turkey during World War I and held under Mandate by Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy until near the close of World War II. The nations formed from this territory were Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Israel. The general belief has been that the Arab peoples lack some of the progressive spirit, energy, ambition and political stability that characterize Israel. To a certain extent this may be true. But, to quote Dr. Mohammed T. Mehdi, "By the first World War, the Arabs began experiencing a new renaissance and during recent years have made some spectacular progress in various fields,particularly in the field of education." It is possible that, with increasing widespread education and development of their physical resources, they may well take a more prominent part in world affairs than they have in many centuries. Iraq, being commercially and geographically separate from Israel, seems not to be so much concerned with the dispute, and is not being considered in this study.

LEBANON -

Lebanon, although the smallest of the states discussed here, has the highest standard of any Middle East country for literary and educational attainments, as well as being the most stable politically. It is a republic, with constitution modeled after that of

the French Third Republic (1875), with President elected for a six-year term by the Chamber of Deputies; and a Chamber of Deputies, elected for a four-year term by the citizens.² This constitution has been in effect since 1926 (although amended several times), when Lebanon was existing under French Mandate, except for two short terms when it was suspended. Beirut, the capital, is a city of more than 600,000 inhabitants, the financial and travel and diplomatic center of the Middle East. Lebanon has adopted a comprehensive five-year plan covering eight distinct series of activity, among which are irrigation, drinking water supplies, power, roads, hydraulic work, archaeological exploration, public buildings, and housing. The total cost is estimated at 1,300 million Lebanese pounds, or \$430 million. There is still great contrast between, on the one hand, professional and businessmen and government workers, and on the other hand, the wandering Bedouin herdsmen, laborers, and farmers, using a crooked stick and oxen or burros for plowing, and camels for transportation. But education, and contacts with other peoples and countries, are narrowing the gap and tending to level out the whole society. Lebanon is perhaps the poorest in natural resources of the Middle Eastern countries. To economic experts it appears to be an “economic impossibility.” Lebanon's population is about 1, 600,000; its area 3400 square miles.

JORDAN -

This country, a constitutional monarchy, which was under British Mandate between the two World Wars, is most unstable politically, subject to possible revolt by the army, pressure from Egypt, interference by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and other uncertainties. But the young king, Hussein, who was educated at Harrow in England, and who came to power in 1953 at the age of 18, has so far been able to remain in power. He seems to be progressive and constructive in his policies. Commerce and agriculture have not improved as much as they might during his reign; but his efforts have been hampered by internal difficulties.¹ Its area is 36,715 square miles; population about two million.

1 Mowat, R.C. Middle East Perspective

2 Sharabi, H.B. Governments and Politics of the Middle East in the Twentieth Century

3 Ibid

SYRIA -

Syria has made less progress than the other countries considered here. Power politics among its leaders., lack of constructive leadership, disagreements with Lebanon, lack of unity among its various tribes and peoples, and between the northern and southern areas, have made it impossible to develop a strong nation. In 1958, under pressure from President Nasser of Egypt, Syria consented to join the "United Arab Republic".¹ However, it soon became disillusioned with his leadership and tendency toward dictatorship, and reversed its action. This also led to instability and uncertainty. It has not progressed as other nations have. Its area is 7,210 square miles, population about 5 million.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC -

This country, formerly known as Egypt, is a democratic socialist state with Islam as the state religion and Arabic as the official language. Freedom of belief, of the press and printing and publication are guaranteed within the limits of the law. The national assembly is elected by universal suffrage, and 10 members may be appointed by the President; the President is nominated by the National Assembly and confirmed by plebiscite. A constitution was proclaimed in 1964.² In 1952 the country underwent a radical governmental change, when an army-directed revolution ousted the corrupt and dissolute King Farouk and eventually installed as President Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser. His foreign policies may not always have been to the liking of the United States, but it cannot be denied that he has provided the constructive leadership that the country had lacked, and he has made it a country to be reckoned with in foreign affairs, as is demonstrated by his taking over the Suez Canal, and building the Aswan Dam. Internally, he has installed compulsory education, nationalized 80% of the country's business, more than doubled workmen's wages, created more than three million jobs, limited ownership of land to 100 acres.³

1 Hussein, King of Jordan, *Uneasy Lies The Head*

2 Mowat, R.C. *Middle East Perspective*

3 *Statesman's Year Book 1965-66*

Perhaps his greatest achievement is the instilling into his people a sense of dignity and pride, after having been dominated by outsiders for 5000 years. The country's population is about 26 million; its area 386,000 square miles, of which about one tenth is cultivated and settled.¹

ISRAEL -

Israel appears to be the most progressive and hard-working of all of the nations in the Middle East. Since its founding in 1948 it has 1) built a new and modern university plant with capacity and attendance of more than 8000; 2) constructed a large and finely equipped chain of hospitals and training centers, and a medical center, largely through the efforts of Hadassah in the United States; 3) vastly Improved its highway system; 4) established many kibbutzim, or farm co-operatives, and greatly improved agriculture through scientific means, also irrigation systems, and a forestry system, following leads from references in the Old Testament to crops that had been extensively grown in the pre-Christian era; 5) constructed much modern housing, including large apartment buildings; 6) established an air transport system; 7) created manufacturing and commerce; 8) started development of the Negev, the desert area in the south, using wells referred to in the Old Testament for water supplies,² as well as some desalinization of sea water; opened up copper mines formerly used by King Solomon; prospected extensively for other minerals; 9) discovered a limited amount of oil and gas, and has started extracting salts from the waters of the Dead Sea.³ It has also created an efficient standing army with conscription for both men and women. The country is not yet self-sufficient in trade, and is assisted greatly by contributions from abroad, which have been estimated at several billions of dollars. The German reparations agreement which provided for a total amount of \$822 millions from Germany have helped greatly, but this is due to be completed in 1967. There is a sense of pioneering, similar to that of the United States of a century ago; an enthusiasm, particularly among the younger people about being a part of creating a new nation and new lives for themselves, that is

1 Saturday Evening Post, September, 1963.

2 Keller, Werner The Bible As History

3 Mowat, R. C. Middle East Perspective



Blue shading represents area allotted to Israel by partition plan of United Nations.

Black line shows present boundary of Israel.

literally causing the "desert to blossom as the rose", and industry to boom. Immigrants of all ages, from all parts of the world, are taking part in this great adventure. They are literally setting an example for all of the world, in the construction of a new and vital civilization. "Israel is unique in that it is the only country that is nationally characterized by a race, a language and a religion.¹ Its area is 7993 square miles; its population about 2 million.²

THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT

The first agitation for a Jewish homeland in recent times appeared in England in 1842, but no permanent effects resulted. It was not until 1896 that the movement was started that was eventually to succeed. In that year Theodore Herzl, an Austrian journalist and author, published a tract that attracted widespread attention, arguing for a permanent national home for the Jewish people. Herzl's idea was to raise a huge fund with which to purchase Palestine outright from the Turks. He hoped to win over the other powers to the point where they would exert enough pressure to cause the Turks to sell.³ The publication of this tract led to an international conference in Switzerland two years later, out of which came the Zionist organization. Herzl died in 1904, worn out by his arduous labors in the cause; but the movement started by him and vigorously pushed by his associates continued. However, at no time has the Zionist organization been accept accepted by all Jews; many of them are not sympathetic to the cause.⁴ During World War I Great Britain freed the Middle East from Turkish rule, through the military operations of Gen. Edmund Allenby, aided by that somewhat legendary and glamorous character, Lawrence of Arabia. The Zionists grasped the opportunity presented by the freeing of the land from Turkish rule, and zealously pressed their case. In an effort to rally the Jews to the Allied cause, which at that time was desperate, Great Britain in 1917, simultaneously with Gen. Allenby's victorious advance on Jerusalem,

1 National Geographic Magazine

2 Sharabi, H. B. Governments and Politics of the Middle East

3 Moat, R.C. Middle East Perspective

4 Lilienthal, Alfred What Price Israel

issued its so-called BALFOUR RESOLUTION, which constitutes the first official approval of the movement by a major world power. This Resolution declared in part: "Great Britain favors the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jews, and will use its best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being understood that nothing should be done which may prejudice the rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country." It is difficult to see how the latter part of this declaration could be carried out; but the declaration did offer great encouragement to the Zionists. One writer noted, "By this declaration one nation solemnly promised to another people the country of a third," which in itself was an invitation to conflict.

With the establishment of the British Mandate over Palestine in 1920, by the Conference of San Remo, the Jewish people, encouraged by British support, increasingly immigrated into Palestine, and began an intensive program of development by drainage of swamp area, irrigation, forestation, power development, and other items.¹ The Council of the League of Nations in July, 1922 gave the British Mandate its official endorsement, the primary purpose of which was to implement the Balfour Declaration. It recognizes "the historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine", and "the grounds for reconstituting the National Home in that country."²

With the advent of the Hitler regime in Germany, immigration increased rapidly. Great Britain, still occupying the area under the Mandate, became disturbed by the increasing immigration, because of opposition from the Arabs. In 1939 Neville Chamberlain, then Prime Minister, recognizing this opposition and attempting to steer a middle course, issued a so-called "White Paper" (described by David Ben-Gurion as "an infamous document"), which set a limit of 75,000 Jews who would be permitted to enter Palestine within the next five years, and no more after that without Arab consent. This shut the door on all but a small fraction of the millions of Jews for whom escape from Europe was the only alternative to persecution, torture and death.

1 Esso Foundation, Palestine- A Study of Jewish, Arab and British Policies

2 Goldberg, Israel, A History of the Jewish People

During the period of World War II little or nothing could be done to settle the problem; but after the establishment of the United Nations, in 1945, one of the first problems put before it, and one that should have had prompt action, was the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Arab position was: Palestine should be an independent state, ruled by the majority, with due protection for the rights of the minority. The Zionist position was: Palestine should be a Jewish Commonwealth, open to Jewish immigration and controlled by the Jewish Agency.¹

But it was not until 1947 that the United Nations appointed an 11-man Commission to study and report on the problem. During the Commission's deliberations, an alternate proposal was made that the homeless Jews be resettled in countries with comparatively sparse populations, such as Canada, United States, or Australia, but these countries refused? East Africa also was suggested, but the Zionists rejected that suggestion. After seven months of serious study and debate, with much misgivings, after withstanding tremendous political pressure from various sources, the Commission produced a report recommending partition of the Palestine area between the resident Arabs and the immigrating Jews.² Several drafts of partition were presented, none of them being acceptable to all parties. The final report suggested an area of about 5500 square miles to be awarded to the Jews. On November 29, 1947 the report of the Commission was adopted by the United Nations.

THE CONFLICT

Immediately upon the adoption of this report by the United Nations, the Arab nations opened a terrorist campaign in Palestine, ambushing and murdering travelers, staging demonstrations and riots, and setting fires. This of course drew retaliation from the Jewish settlers. This sporadic warfare continued until May 14, 1948, at which date the respective nations, Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy, withdrew from their mandates; and Israel immediately announced her independence and the establishment of a nation.

¹ Polk, Stamler, Asfour Backdrop to Tragedy-Struggle for Palestine

² Lilienthal, Alfred What Price Israel

At once the sporadic warfare ceased, and the combined armies of Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Iraq made a formal attack on Israel. Israel, likewise, had been preparing for this day and though without formally organized army, fought back viciously, largely a guerilla warfare. The fighting was vicious and bitter, but within a few months the Israelis were able to rout the Arab armies, and even to add to their holdings some 2550 square miles, or nearly one-half as much as had been allotted to them by the United Nations, leaving them in possession of about 8000 square miles. Much of what was won in the fighting was good arable land, whereas a large portion of the allotment was desert. In mid-1949, under pressure from the United Nations and the great powers an armistice was signed, leaving the Israelis in possession of 8000 square miles.

Notice how the territory allotted to and won by the Israelis is shaped and how the line is drawn. FIRST: The City of Jerusalem is divided by the line, leaving most of the Holy Places in the Arab sector. SECOND: The partition gives to Israel all of the Sea of Galilee and all of the Jordan River north of that sea, the line being only 33 feet east of the water line; also all of the Jordan River about one-third of the way from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea.¹ THIRD: Israel has a lone coastline on the Mediterranean Sea, which gives it water access to the western world; and at its southern end a frontier of six miles on the Gulf of Aqaba, with access to the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, by which it may ship to the Orient and to East and South Africa. But there is a joker here: both shores of the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea are controlled by Arab countries, which nullifies Israel's ability to ship through this port. Some shipping has gone through, protected and aided by Great Britain; 'but the Gulf has not yet been opened permanently to shipping by Israel. The Suez Canal also is closed to Israeli ships. FOURTH: The upper or northern part of the country, with up to 40 inches of annual rainfall, though hilly and rough in places, is arable and productive.² But the southern part, and by far the largest portion of the country, is desert, with almost no precipitation, and much of it is untillable. A few settlements are being built in this area, with water supplied from wells, and some from desalinization of sea water, but these supplies are

1 Mowat, R. C. Middle East Perspective

2 National Geographic Magazine

not sufficient, and Israel hopes to use water from the rivers in the northern part of the country. But Jordan needs and wants this water also, and has already dammed some of the rivers flowing into the Sea of Galilee.¹

If there were not already bad blood between these peoples, this conflict over water would cause it. This has brought about border conflicts, shootings, and threats of all-out war. Also, personal and individual matters cause much trouble. To quote the British General Glubb, who was for many years commander of Jordan's armies: "Thanks to the way the armistice line was drawn, more than 100 Jordanian villages were cut off from their lands. A line so drawn could not but invite illegal crossings.....to see their relations, or smuggle a few pounds of rice or tea....or sheep or cattle. Every such crossing if discovered invites shooting, and another incident, which must be arbitrated by the United Nations authorities. There have been literally thousands of such incidents." In addition to these innumerable minor incidents are the following major factors causing bitterness which the Arabs hold for the Jews: 1) Loss of valuable territory in Israel; 2) Dispossession of a million or more Arabs from their homes and property, without compensation; 3) Humiliation caused by military defeats by a much smaller force; 4) Dispute over irrigation water; 5) Development of the country by Israel more rapidly and much in excess of that by the Arabs.

The Arabs, say those who have lived among them, are a volatile people, always involved with disagreements or in fighting among themselves. In countries like Syria, Jordan and Iraq, coups take place at the slightest provocation. They have, however, a strong "nationalist" or "racist" feeling; if one of their leaders should try to take a moderate stand on the Israel question, as King Hussein of Jordan has done, or President Bourguiba of Tunisia (who suggested negotiations with the Jews and was promptly "slapped down" by the more militant to his race) the Arab nationalists would apply such pressure that the leaders would be forced to change their position or be overthrown.

The only rallying point on which the Arabs can unite is their hatred of the Jews;

¹ National Geographic



MAP SHOWING PLAN FOR DIVERSION OF JORDAN WATERS

and here all of their emotional fervor comes to the fore, comparable to that of those famous mythical characters of American folklore, the "Martins and the Coys", only worse and on a much larger scale. With such a condition existing, any orderly logical approach to the resolution of the problem is impossible in the foreseeable future.

Although there are many immigrants from the Far East in Israel, the country is generally western oriented; while the Arabs are largely eastern oriented. This is an additional emotional stumbling block.

ARAB REFUGEES

For certain of the material used in this portion of this paper I wish to give credit to our own Knight Wesley G. Nicholson, who presented a paper entitled "PITY THE POOR ARAB" to this club in February, 1955. Knight Nicholson's paper dealt chiefly with the problem of the Arab refugees; that problem 12 years later is still unsolved. To review this phase: During the period of the Arab-Israeli warfare, in 1947, 1948 and 1949, one million or more Arabs, as estimated by the United Nations, left the country, abandoning homes, businesses and friends, and hoping to return when open hostilities had ceased. Some 200,000 are reported to have returned and to some extent have been absorbed into the new nation, but the rest are still in other Arab countries, and have not yet been compensated for their losses.¹

They are settled in dismal camps and hovels, in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, most of them without means of self-support, and are being cared for by the United Nations Relief and Welfare Administration. Some of the more energetic and able ones have taken employment, or created their own businesses, and have been absorbed into the life of the country in which they reside. But by far the largest portion are, 18 years later, after the cessation of hostilities, still living in abject poverty. Some of them are said to be happier and more contented to live in these circumstances, and being fed by the United Nations, than when supporting themselves in their own country. It has been claimed by Israel, and not denied, that the Arab countries are purposely keeping them in this condition as an object lesson to the world, of the injustice resulting from the Israeli conquest.

¹ Mowat, R. C. Middle East Perspective

The United Nations Commission is supervising these camps, feeding the refugees, and otherwise doing what it can to ease their lot; and has even taken steps to reduce natural increase by introducing methods of birth control, but is encountering much difficulty in that effort.¹ The latest population figures that I have seen for the refugees is about 1.25 million, so it appears that progress is being made in reverse. The United Nations has several times voted a resolution providing that "the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live in peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return." Israel has consistently voted against this resolution, and at times has been only nation to do so.

¹ Maj.-Gen. Gamal Eddin Sabry, Director in Gaza Area.

THE STATED POSITIONS OF THE OPPONENTS

THE ARAB POSITION -

Col. Nasser, President of the United Arab Republic, is the "strong man" among the Arab nations, and his statements may be accepted as representative of the Arab position. He has attempted to create a "United Arab Republic", consisting of as many nations as he can induce or force to join. The main announced purpose of this coalition is "to drive Israel into the sea", or "to obliterate Israel."¹ "But although Lebanon, Syria and Jordan are the countries that would stand to gain the most, territorially at least, from this action, he has been unsuccessful, largely because of his efforts to dominate the union, to which the other countries object. And he appears unwilling to risk another "shellacking" from the Israelis, such as his armies received in 1948, and again in 1956; so he is biding his time. The Arabs in Jordan are building dams and canals to transport and utilize the waters of the Jordan River and its tributaries and take it away from the Israelis; they say, let the Jews attack if they will.

Nasser, upon being asked if he sees any hope for a peaceful settlement with Israel, replies with a firm "NO". Likewise, Jordan's King Hussein, Cabinet Ministers of both sides, United Nations officials all see no hope of settlement. Nasser has been quoted as saying, "What's the use of negotiating? Israel has always defied the United Nations and refused to carry out its resolutions." ²

Although the Israelis appear to be successful in their efforts to establish a nation, "Many Arabs think that time is on their side, and that settlement will be in their favor without a war. The Arabs number 40 million, the Jews 1.5 million. Although the Jews are technically more advanced and stronger militarily than the Arabs, due to western aid, in time the Arabs will catch up, and with greater numbers and greater natural resources, they do not need to hurry. The Crusaders occupied the country for 100 years and were driven out; it will be the same for the Jews."

¹ Burns, Gen. E. L. M. Between Arab and Israeli

² Life magazine March 15, 1966

THE ISRAELI POSITION

The Arab leaders, among whom David Ben-Gurion, who was for many years Prime Minister of Israel, is the best known and most aggressive in the cause, assert that the territory belongs to the Jews because of occupation by them for many centuries in the distant past; that it was given to the Jewish people by God; that for nearly 1000 years there has been a modest return of Jews to what he calle the Land of Israel;" that the Arab refugees should be settled in the Arab countries amongst their brethren with the same religion, culture and language;" and that admitting them to Israel would unacceptably alter the Jewish character of Israel. Israel has always maintained that it favored unconditional peace negotiations with the Arab States. Ben-Gurion has even offered to go to Cairo to negotiate with Col. Nasser, and to meet with Arab leaders anywhere, but his offer has not been accepted.¹

SUMMARY OF JEWISH CLAIMS AND THE ANSWERS

For a concise and comprehensive presentation of the claims which the Zionists make to their rights to a section of Palestine for their national home, and a refutation of those claims by Arab authorities, I turn to INFORMATION PAPER NO. 15, entitled "THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE", published by the Arab Information Center, the author of which is Dr. Mohammed T. Mehdi, of San Francisco. Dr. Mehdi makes the following presentation: (and I condense and summarize both claims and answers in the interests of brevity)

1. ZIONIST CLAIM - Historical Rights. Palestine belongs to the Jews because certain Jews used to live in Palestine 2000 years ago, and are entitled as a matter of right to go back home after a long exile.

ANSWER - If this is a valid argument, then the United States should be given back to the Indians, and Alaska to the Russians. The Arabs of Palestine are more entitled to their homeland than is Ben-Gurion, a Pole, and other immigrants from foreign countries. In spite of their ancestry and race, this does not entitle them to go to the home of their Arab "cousin" without permission of the "cousin."

2. ZIONIST CLAIM - Jewish Persecution in Germany by the Nazis.

Because of this persecution and mistreatment in Europe the Jew desperately needed a place of their own. Palestine was such a place.

ANSWER: That persecution was the deed and fault of Nazi Germany. The Arabs should not be expected to pay for the crimes of Hitler by loss of their homes and lands.

3. ZIONIST CLAIM: Jewish "Know-How". The Jews claim that because of their superior technical knowledge and their energy and ambition over that of the Arabs, they should be allowed to take over and develop the country.

ANSWER: It is true that the Jews have developed their country to an exceptional degree, but it has been with the help of some 2 billion dollars of money from the outside. What could not the Arabs do under similar circumstances? The credit for this should go

largely to Jewish citizens of the United States, from whom the funds came. Just as the Poles preferred to improve their "backward" agriculture without Hitler's help, so the Arabs prefer carrying on their development without Zionist intrusion.

4. ZIONIST CLAIM - Faisal-Weizman Agreement: The Zionist maintains that the agreement between King Faisal of Arabia and Chaim Weizman of the Zionists in 1919 to create a national home in Palestine for the Jews proves the Arab consent.

ANSWER: Neither Faisal nor Weizman represented a body sovereign in Palestine, nor had any competence to conclude a contract regarding a third party. A reservation was made by Faisal to the effect that if the Arab demand for independence was not fulfilled, the agreement would be null and void. The independence was not attained, and the agreement was therefore void.

5. ZIONIST CLAIM - Population Increase: As Jewish population of Palestine increased as a result of immigration, Arab population increased likewise.

ANSWER: Jewish increase was largely the result of immigration; against Arab will and in violation of Arab rights. Arab increase was natural increase.

6. ZIONIST CLAIM - Jews Bought the Land in Palestine.

ANSWER: At the time of the takeover in 1948, Jews in Palestine owned either by purchase or gift, 7% of the land, the other 93% being owned by Arabs. Since about 13% of the land now belongs to Arabs, still living in Palestine, It follows that 80% of the land was acquired by the Jews by sheer force of conquest and occupation. This 80% amounts to 20,850 square kilometers, (about 2660 square miles); hundreds of cities and towns have also been taken, and thousands of acres of orange groves, vineyards and other orchards, and 10,000 shops.

7. ZIONIST CLAIM - Only Arab Feudalists Oppose Israel.

ANSWER: This is untrue. Opposition has come from all classes of Arab society, farmers, business men, workers, students, intelligensia; and not only from Palestine Arabs, but from Arabs from all over the world.

8. ZIONIST CLAIM- The Arabs Left of their own accord and settled in other Arab countries.

ANSWER: It is true that many left, but it was from fear of slaughter, if they stayed on, and from fear of all of the other ills of war, and not from choice.

9. ZIONIST CLAIM- Refugee Resettlement: The refugees are purposely not being allowed to assimilate into other Arab peoples, so that they can be held up before the world as an example of the wrongs done to them by the Israelis.

ANSWER: The refugees themselves want to return to their former homes, and have legal and moral right to do so, with full backing of the United Nations.

Then there are the further arguments which Dr. Mehdi claims have no validity as a matter of right: the Arabs have disregarded the United Nations; Israel is a bastion of democracy; let's forget the past go on from here; Israel is an accomplished fact.

TWO GREAT RACES OF PEOPLE

The Jewish people have a long and often tragic history. They have been conquered many times, taken into captivity and slavery, scattered to all countries of the world, persecuted; yet they have exhibited a tremendous vitality and race cohesiveness. At all times they have retained an all-impelling sentiment for the land which they have always considered their homeland. In spite of these tragedies, and in spite of their world-wide dispersion, as one author has put it, "their contribution to the earth's knowledge and progress is all out of proportion to their numbers." Their creative period has extended throughout their more than 3000 years of existence, in contrast to many other civilizations, which have suffered extended "dark" periods. A people having such admirable qualities should be given all possible assistance to establish their own nation and promote these qualities and abilities for the benefit of the world. It is remarkable that a country could be formed so readily and made so cohesive and so vital with people with such radically different backgrounds and languages.

The Arab peoples have for hundreds of years been divided politically, held under foreign influence, unprogressive, and proportionally un-influential in world affairs. But we must not forget their period of intellectual brilliance and leadership, when they inherited from the Greeks their storehouse of scientific and artistic knowledge, added to it their own tremendous contributions, while Europe was merely subsisting in the gloom of the dark ages; and passed on to Europe this vast fund of knowledge to spark the renaissance; after which they themselves foundered under the attacks of the Mongolian hordes of Genghis Khan.¹

CONCLUSION

The solution to this problem has baffled the wisest and best statesmen of the United Nations for twenty years. There appears to be a deadlock between the opposing forces, and no solution so far proposed is acceptable. Israel appears to be well established, with little or no prospect of being "thrown into the sea" in the foreseeable future. The only alternative to a settlement of the dispute is a continuation for an indefinite period of the present state of sporadic warfare which has existed for nearly twenty years, and which goes far toward preventing normal development of the peoples concerned, and keeps the rest of the world in suspense. The United Nations seems to be ineffective.

It appears that only by concessions being made by both sides can the much desired ideal of peace be obtained. Such concessions might take the form of recognition of the existence of Israel by the Arab nations, and the assumption by Israel of an obligation to make compensation of some kind to the dispossessed refugee Arabs. Perhaps the opposing nations will have to wear themselves out fighting, before either will consider compromising their positions.

Voss, in his work, "The Palestine Problem Today", comments as follows: "The Palestine problem was and is a conflict of rights as well as a conflict of wrongs. The establishment of Israel was and is a creative answer to the world problem of anti-semitism - an answer which might not be absolutely just to Arab rights in Palestine, but which seemed just in view of the granting of sovereignty to so many Arab states throughout the Middle East."

THE ARABS WANT

PEACE, but not until Israel has been "driven into the sea."

PEACE, but not until the territory which was taken from them by force has been recovered.

PEACE, but not until the refugees have been resettled on their own land, and been compensated for their losses.

THE ISRAELIS WANT

PEACE, but not until their nation has been recognized by their Arab neighbors as an independent state.

PEACE, but not until Israel's borders are secure from invasion.

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