

# the facts

## ABOUT THE PALESTINE PROBLEM

A monthly bulletin produced by «The Arab Women's Information Committee, The Friends of Jerusalem»,  
P. O. Box 320 - Beirut, Lebanon - Vol. I No. 2 - February 1968

### I — THE BACKGROUND

*«Force of Arms not Formal Resolutions  
will Decide the Issue»*

*(Ben Gurion, Rebirth and Destiny of  
Israel, P. 232).*

### A - STATEMENTS BY ZIONISTS

#### DID YOU KNOW THAT ?

1. In 1921, David Eder, a member of the Zionist Commission in Palestine, declared that : «There can be no equality in the partnership between Jews and Arabs, but a Jewish preponderance as soon as the numbers of the race are sufficiently increased».

*(Ziff, W. The Rape of Palestine, P. 171).*

2. In an interview with President Roosevelt in 1942, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, who later became the first President of Israel, said : «I maintained the thesis that we could not rest our case on the consent of the Arabs; as long as their consent was asked, they would naturally refuse it».

*(Weizmann, Trial and Error, P. 534).*

3. In his «Complete Diaries», Theodore Herzl, the founder of Zionism, said : «If we move into a region where there are wild animals to which the Jews are not accustomed — big snakes, etc... I shall use the natives... for the extermination of these animals».

*(Theodore Herzl, Complete Diaries, Vol. I, P. 98).*

4. In 1943, P. Hurley, Personal Representative of President Roosevelt, said of Zionist ambitions in Palestine that : «For its part, the Zionist Organization in Palestine has indicated its commitment to an enlarged programme for:

- a — A sovereign Jewish state which would embrace Palestine and probably Transjordan.
- b — An eventual transfer of the Arab population from Palestine to Iraq; and

c — Jewish leadership for the whole Middle East in the fields of economic development and control».

(Foreign Relations of the United States 1943 :

*The Near East and Africa, (Washington, DC, 1964)*

*Vol. IV, PP. 776-777).*

5. In 1946, Richard Crossman, the prominent British Zionist and Member of Parliament, said that the Zionists' «main preoccupation is not to save Jews alive out of Europe, but to get Jews into Palestine and to establish a Jewish State».

(*R. Crossman, Palestine Mission : A Personal Record, P. 47).*

6. In 1948, Dr. Weizmann said about the expulsion of the Arab refugees that: «It was a miraculous cleaning of the land; the miraculous simplification of Israel's task».

(*James McDonald, My Mission To Israel, P. 176).*

## B - OTHER STATEMENTS

1. In 1891, Achad Ha-am, the prominent Zionist writer, said of the Jewish settlers in Palestine: «Serfs they were in the lands of the Diaspora, and suddenly they find themselves in freedom. This change has awakened in them an inclination to despotism. They treat the Arabs with hostility and enmity, deprive them of their rights, offend them without cause, and even boast of these deeds, and nobody among us opposes this despicable and dangerous inclination».

(*Moshe Menuhin, The Decadence of Judaism in Our Time, P. 64).*

2. In 1951, Father Gorman wrote in the American magazine *Sign* that: «The Arabs are no fools... They know that the sword is aimed at them and that, unless Zionist plans are frustrated, they will be driven back step by step into the desert — their lands, homes, vineyards and farms taken over by an alien people brought from the end of the earth for this purpose».

3. In a protest against the Land Acquisition Law imposed by the Israeli authorities on the Arabs in Israel, a prominent member of the Ihud Party, which has always advocated an understanding with the Arabs, said: «They are agricultural people, like you, citizens like you. There exists only one difference between them and you, they are Arabs and you are Jews.» He continued: «This difference seemed to you so great and decisive that you were ready to trespass on all that is required by the Law of Israel and its tradition».

(*From an article entitled : We Accuse ! published in Haaretz,*

*January 14, 1955).*

4. William Zukerman, Editor of the *Jewish Newsletter*, wrote of the Arab refugees that: «The most tragic aspect of this entire affair is not only that a grave collective injustice has been commit-

ted, but that the majority of Israelis and Diaspora Jews justify and glorify it as an act of patriotic pride, historic justice and heroism».

(Jewish Newsletter, December 1, 1958 & December 14, 1959).

## C - STATISTICS

(Compiled from the Survey  
of Palestine, 1946)

1. Until the year 1946 the percentage of Jews who came to Palestine from Western countries was negligible: 0.7% of the total Jewish immigration came from the United States of America, and 0.6% only came from Great Britain.

(Survey of Palestine, 1946, Chapter VII, Tables 2 & 12, PP. 186, 204).

2. Due to extensive immigration helped by the British Mandate, the Arabs, who in 1922 formed 91% of the total population of Palestine and the Jews only 9%, became in 1946 only 68.4% of the population whereas the percentage of the Jews rose to 31.6%.

(Survey of Palestine, 1946, Chapter VI, Table 4, P. 143).

3. The natural increase in population is normally 1.5% a year, but the Jews in Palestine between 1922 - 1946 were increasing at an average of 9.0% annually, helped by the British policy of forcing a Jewish majority on the country. In the year 1927 alone the increase reached the figure of 28.2% and in the year 1934 it reached 25.9%.

(Survey of Palestine, 1946, Chapter VI, Table 1, P. 141).

4. Under the British Mandate, 84.8% of the public lands in Palestine that were leased to the population went to the Jews and 2.7% only went to the Arabs.

(Survey of Palestine, 1946, Chapter VIII, P. 258)..

## II - RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

### A - STATEMENTS BY ZIONISTS

1. On August 15, 1967, the Israeli newspaper, «Lamerhav», (meaning «For Expansion») the official organ of the Ahdut Avoda party, published a statement by its leader, the Israeli Minister of Labour, Ygal Allon. He stated that: «The eastern frontier of Israel passes through the middle of the Dead Sea and the River Jordan... We must face the fact of the increasing birthrate among the Arabs and the necessity for them to remain a minority in Israel. We must populate the West Bank with Jewish towns and villages».

(L'Orient, August 16, 1967. A.F.P.)

2. In a speech to the Mapai party on the 8th of September, 1967, Abba Eban, the Foreign Minister of Israel, said: «The problem is not any longer whether Jordan recognizes Israel, but whether Israel recognizes the existence of Jordan».

(L'Orient, September 9, 1967. AFP).

3. On October 29, 1967, Levi Eshkol, Prime Minister of Israel, spoke of a «Greater Israel», including the occupied parts of Jordan, Syria and the United Arab Republic. In a new call for Jewish settlers from abroad... the Premier said that new opportunities faced the nation in the aftermath of its victory.

«If you were to ask me what is required to realize these opportunities», he said, «I would answer in one simple word: We need Jews».

«In Greater Israel today we have a population of 3.8 million souls. Of these, 2.4 million are Jews; 1.4 million are non-Jews. The percentage of Jews in the total population is 64 percent; the non-Jews are 36 percent».

(International Herald Tribune, October 30, 1967).

4. In an article on the reconstruction of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, the American newsmagazine, *Time*, said: «The Temple must be constructed on its original site; this could only be done by demolishing Islam's sacred Dome of the Rock». When asked how this might be done, the Israeli historian el-Dad said: «Who knows? Perhaps there will be an earthquake!»

(Time Magazine, June 20, 1967).

5. On August 16, 1967, the military Rabbi of Israel, Shlomo Goren, expressed the wish to see the Jewish Temple rebuilt on the site of the Moslem Holy Shrine of al-Aqsa.

(L'Orient, August 17, 1967, AFP).

6. On September 24, 1967, at a meeting of the Central Committee of his party, «Rafi», David Ben Gurion, ex-Prime Minister of Israel, accused Levi Eshkol, present Prime Minister of Israel, of «taking too long to act». «If we do not populate Jerusalem with Jews urgently.» he said, «we run the great risk of losing it».

(L'Orient, September 26, 1967, AFP).

7. In Tel-Aviv on September 22, 1967, General Itzhak Rabin, then Chief of Staff of the Israeli Army, said: «Today our frontiers are formed by natural boundaries: the Suez Canal, the Jordan River, and the Syrian heights».

(L'Orient, September 23, 1967, AFP).

## B - OTHER STATEMENTS

1. In his press conference on November 27, 1967, General De Gaulle said that: «The Franco-British Suez expedition had witnessed the emergence of Israel as a military state, bent on expansion. The actions taken by Israel in order to double its population force the conclusion that the territory it has acquired would soon prove its inadequacy and that, in order to expand this territory, Israel is bound to seize on any pretext».

(L'Orient, November 28, 1967, AFP).

2. In the same press conference, General De Gaulle says: «I told Abba Eban, the Foreign Minister of Israel, on May 24, 1967, that we would not let Israel be destroyed if it is attacked. But should the Israelis attack first, we will condemn your initiative. You might be numerically inferior but you are better organized, more compact and better armed than the Arabs, therefore you might win the war militarily. But you will find yourselves facing mounting difficulties both locally and internationally, because a war in the Middle East is bound to increase tension in the world and would have disastrous effects on many countries».

(L'Orient, November 28, 1967, AFP).

3. General De Gaulle went on to say that all the manifestations of an occupation could now be seen in the territories acquired by Israel after the June war, «Occupation which never goes without oppression, repression and expulsions — as well as the usual resistance that Israel now in her turn qualifies as terrorism».

(L'Orient, November 28, 1967, AFP).

4. Dan Cordtz wrote in the American magazine, *Fortune*, that a hopeful new approach to the Palestine Problem might be one that does not only focus on «securing controversial and possibly unessential Israeli 'rights'».

(Fortune, September 1, 1967, P. 178).

5. In an article in the London weekly, *The Observer*, the well-known British writer, Malcolm Muggeridge, after a recent visit to Israel, said: «I was quite abnormally horrified to see in Jerusalem two Arabs, one of them a youth, being arrested, beaten up, and then, with black bags over their heads, driven away at top speed in a jeep. I wanted to rush after them, shouting impotently: 'It's like Berlin; you shouldn't be doing this' ».

(*The Observer, December 24, 1967, P. 7*).

## C - CURRENT EVENTS

1. On June 8, 1967, the Israeli Ambassador in London, Aharon Remez, admitted: «Israel was the first to attack».

(*L'Orient, June 9, 1967, AP Reuter*).

2. In a press conference on June 8, 1967, Vice Admiral Martin of the 6th Fleet stated that all naval units under his command were «hundreds of miles from the eastern coast of the Mediterranean», and that «their manœuvres were taking place near the island of Crete».

3. On the same day the U.S. ship «Liberty», which belongs to the 6th Fleet, was hit by Israeli bombers. The ship was positioned only 15 miles from the Eastern Mediterranean coast, near the Sinai desert.

(*L'Orient, June 9, 1967, AP*).

4. A week before the war began in June 1967, General Earle Wheeler, President of the Committee of the Chiefs of Staff of the U.S. Army, told President Lyndon Johnson that should Israel take the initiative and launch an air attack against the Arabs, it would win the war in three or four days. This opinion was shared by Richard Helms, chief of the C.I.A., but was received skeptically by Arthur Goldberg, U.S. Representative at the United Nations.

(*L'Orient, June 13, 1967, AFP*).

5. Israel did not allow the International Red Cross to operate in the Sinai desert until June 15, 1967, five days after the cessation of hostilities. Thousands of Egyptian soldiers were thus left to perish in the desert from thirst and hunger, as well as the hundreds of wounded whom relief could not reach in time.

(*L'Orient, July 14, 1967, AFP*).

6. On December 7, 1967, the Israeli army destroyed the village of el-Auja on the West Bank of the Jordan. All the Arab inhabitants of the village were expelled, four people were killed and 300 houses razed to the ground.

(*El-Hayat, Beirut, December 8, 1967, AP*).

7. On December 9, 1967, the London weekly, the *Economist*, said: (P. 1045) : «A number of older Arab students who, before the war, had won places in Universities abroad, have been obliged, (by the Israelis) on leaving to go to these Universities, to sign agreements not to return».

8. On December 17, 1967, the London weekly newspaper, the *Observer*, said : «Even on the limited scheme to unite families which was agreed to by Israel when the main repatriation scheme was dropped, out of 4,000 applications only 24 had been approved up to three weeks ago and only 7 people had actually crossed the Jordan back to their homes».

9. On December 6, 1967, the leaders of the Christian communities in Jordan issued an appeal to Christians all over the world to boycott the Christmas festivities in Jerusalem and Bethlehem «as long as the Holy places were under Israeli occupation».

(L'Orient, December 7, 1967, AFP).

