

BACKGROUND NOTES ON PALESTINE

REPORT No. 3

An Eyewitness in Jerusalem

Spring 1969

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Michael
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SECRETARY OF THE JERUSALEM COMMITTEE

FOREWORD

This booklet is the first of several to be published by the Jerusalem Committee.

Part of our job is to discover the facts about Palestine and what is happening to the Palestinians, and to tell what we find regardless of the very unpleasant threats and nuisances to which members of our Committee are from time to time subjected in consequence.

This report does not seek to do more than give a brief eye witness account of one man's very recent visit to Jerusalem and the occupied territories and his reactions to some of the things he saw and heard.

It may be of value to those who prefer facts to fiction.

THE JERUSALEM COMMITTEE

May, 1969

INTRODUCTION

I arrived in Jerusalem on the 2nd of April after proceeding from Lod (Lydda) by taxi; it was the evening before the Passover holiday commenced and the traffic to Jerusalem was quite heavy. Travelling with me was an executive member of the London H.Q. of an ophthalmic hospital who had not been in Jerusalem before, except during the war on a few days visit; also in the taxi was an Israeli representative returning from London after selling plastic tunnels to Britain.

The latter made much of how Israel was pushing exports of an industrial character—particularly plastic tunnels for agriculture, and the ophthalmic executive seemed very much impressed with all he was seeing and hearing. But he asked the plastic tunnel expert: "Why, with six million successful New York Jews, all doing well enough not to want to come to Israel, should two million or so Jews in Israel persist in struggling to make a relatively poor living in a poor country which requires so much financial help?"—To which the plastics expert replied by asking another question—"Why with 100 million Arabs surrounding them, should the Palestinian Arab wish to live in Palestine and Palestine alone?"—Which really posed the problem which—after 21 years absence from the country—I wished to study and, if possible, to find an answer.

During the next 25 days I talked to over 100 or more persons, all residents, about their lives, opinions and prospects, some connected with commerce, some with education, others with religion and a few with administration. Mostly they were from the Arab side, but there were also a few non-Arabs who had always lived in Israel. A very few of both were hopeful that some settlement could be found without further outbreak of hostilities, but most were extremely pessimistic concerning the future. I was not certain how best to approach the task of probing the feelings of people in Jerusalem, some of whom I did not know, and others whom I had not seen for over 20 years, but as the Easter religious ceremonies commenced on the day I arrived I began by attending as many of them as possible.

RELIGIOUS CONTACTS

During these ceremonies I met members of the different religious communities from whom I derived various impressions. The Anglican community at this time were particularly anxious

because of the detention of an Anglican priest from Ramallah, who had been detained on suspicion of being concerned with those implicated in a recent bomb incident in the Israeli Supermarket. All that anyone knew was gleaned from statements in the Press : two girls, also in detention, were said to have placed a bomb in the store, and in some way the priest was being connected with them in a journey by car from Ramallah. He was said to be in solitary confinement and under harsh interrogation and that his health had deteriorated. He had totally denied any connection either with the girls or with the car journey. Before I left the country a statement was published saying no charge was made against the priest because of lack of evidence, and at his own request he was to be permitted to leave for Jordan. However this did not prevent certain of the Israeli public from raising a petition against his release.

From friends I have made among the Latin Order, I gained the similar impression that the acute awareness of the present tense and uncertain situation was too painful to allow them to contemplate what the future might hold. The Churches they said were concerned with the people, and with their individual problems, but they were not willing to compromise their position with the Israeli authorities by discussing the future. Moreover, although they were fully aware of the present suffering and distress among the Arabs they were unwilling to criticize the Occupation Military Authorities.

EDUCATION

Some schools in Jerusalem and the West Bank are not Israeli controlled and continue to maintain their own standards, text books and syllabuses; but other schools have amended text books, including Hebrew history and language, and appear not to have Moslem or Christian religious educational periods. The schools I was able to see were unfortunately all of a private or independent character, and it is therefore not possible for me to comment on the Education now given in Government-aided schools. The under-mentioned are some I was able to visit :

Dar al Tifl : is a school of 900 girls (infants to 18 years old) administered by Miss Hind Husseini. Some 240 are boarders and the remainder are day pupils. A number take vocational courses and qualify as secretarial or trainee teachers; others become capable housewives and homebuilders. It includes a number of fee-paying pupils but also many orphans and social cases.

Dar al Awlad : is a boys school of 240 boys (5-17) re-constituted

since June 1967 as many boys previously attending became refugees and were unable to return after the fighting. The school has been built up to its present numbers from orphans and families who became dispersed and homeless. Students can take vocational training in crafts and building trades.

Talita Kumi: is a Lutheran school for girls which, originally founded and situated in Jerusalem, is now situated in Beit Jala, where 250 girl boarders (5—18) are taught to be trainee teachers, nurses and housewives. They also study Arabic, German and English.

U.N. Vocational Training School: at Kalandia trains boys and youths (17-22) in skilled crafts and gives technical training in the mechanical, electrical and building trades, leading to Surveying, Electrical, Mechanical and Civil Engineering graduation places as well as practical training in the plumbing and welding skills.

Y.M.C.A. Vocational Training School: This school set up in Jericho adjacent to the now deserted U.N. Refugee Camps, also trains youths in the carpentry, plumbing, blacksmith and electrical trades, who have become sufficiently skilled to furnish the East Jerusalem Y.M.C.A. new building with all the interior decorations, furnishings, toilet, plumbing and kitchen equipment; only the external building work was allocated to outside contractors.

The projects are all the work of devoted Arabs and a handful of Europeans, without fuss or publicity requiring mass financial support to initiate and maintain.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

In late June 1967 Israel swiftly enacted legal measures relating to Income, General, Property and Municipal Taxes to apply to Occupied East Jerusalem. These have not been accepted or recognised by the Arab residents who claim that by the Geneva Convention before the taxation laws of an Occupation Force may become effective, three years should elapse.

Israel refuses to recognise the Geneva Convention, possibly because from 1947 Jerusalem has never been accepted either by the United Nations or the great powers as Israeli territory under the Partition Plan. This makes for tremendous legal complexities in regards to all actions Israel has taken since 1947 in the Jerusalem Area. As Israel decided to ignore this part of the Plan, so also the Geneva Convention will be ignored, as well as the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations

resolutions of the 4th, and 14th of July, 1967, pertaining to Jerusalem which declared the Israeli annexation of Jerusalem "Invalid" and called upon Israel to "rescind all measures already taken" and "to desist forthwith from taking any action which would alter the status of Jerusalem." (It is however worth mentioning here that both the Partition Plan and the Geneva Convention were accepted by Israel in 1947 and 1949 respectively.)

Thus the Arabs are refusing to accept service of tax demands from Israel for Income, Property and Municipal taxes, but there have been several recent cases where Income Tax has been assessed and followed by threats to distraint on hotel property. These resulted in Arabs making payment to save the loss of their property. How long Israeli pressure for payment, and Arab resistance will continue, must be a matter for the future. But it is surely a serious problem for East Jerusalem businesses which, if current conditions do not improve, may find themselves driven to bankruptcy.

Since the Israelis have the military upper hand and are able to bend the Geneva Convention, the Partition Plan, and ignore General Assembly and Security Council Regulations (2253 and 2254 of July 1967) the Arabs of occupied Palestine find themselves without any defence, and in a total civic dilemma.

Hotels and Tourist Trade

For East Jerusalem this has always been the largest source of earnings, especially of foreign currencies, but the present uncertainty has resulted in the cancellation of months of contracts, so that Hotels are empty and there is neither enquiry nor interest in coach tours for the very few parties which reach the Area. Also the alleged unification of the East and West Jerusalem has affected to some extent Agency arrangements abroad, and instead of there being two Agencies to cover Jerusalem, now all pass to the West Jerusalem agent, who will first utilise hotels and services in the West before considering hotels in the Arab area. Again, the East Jerusalem hotels benefited from all the visitors from such states as Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria and other Arab States, and now have been completely cut off from these States and their Christian or Moslem pilgrims. Also, there is reason to fear that Israeli publicity has created the impression that all tourism in Jerusalem and the Occupied Areas is controlled by the West Agencies, who can control whatever business they elect to pass to the East. The same comment was made by a Latin Order priest who spoke of pilgrims who desire to visit and stay in the Old City, being informed in

Europe that such accommodation was not available, but they could find accommodation in the West City. Only when the pilgrim reached the Old City was he made aware how grossly he had been misinformed. A rather similar story concerning air passage diverted by the Agency to El Al on the ground that B.O.A.C. was "fully booked," on enquiry transpired to be quite untrue.

IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Import licenses must now be obtained for all those goods once obtained through Jordan. Israel strictly controls all imports whether necessities or luxuries in order to save her foreign currency reserves. Licenses are difficult to obtain, particularly for goods where Israel is able to devise a locally manufactured and usually inferior product. Arab shopkeepers and the public have therefore become wholly dependent on Israeli imports of goods which Israel is not able to assemble or manufacture herself. Apart from foodstuffs locally grown, all commodities are therefore from Israeli sources. So in addition to the hotel and tourist trade Israel is now able to exercise control of the sources of supply to the Arab East City. Arab manufacturers are few, but where these have been established, an import license is now required to maintain production if the business depends on imported raw material; it is unusual for an Arab manufacturer to succeed in such an application, unless the commodity manufactured is for export, so the Arab factory is forced to close. This leads to the next phase of an Israeli economic control of Arab businesses.

COST OF LIVING

Since the June War of 1967 the cost of living has risen steeply in the Arab sector of Jerusalem and appendix "A" shows the comparative prices of commodities of foodstuffs, etc. before June 1967 and in November 1968. These have been shown in Dinars (Jordan) with a percentage increase. Overall the increase in this period of 18 months is little short of 75 per cent. Add this terrific increase to the Arabs' economic difficulties, and the question of Tax increases and methods of assessment, and some idea emerges of the true plight of the Arabs in East Jerusalem under the ruthless occupation.

TAX INCIDENCE

Israel is a high taxation economy, based on high rates of wages for labour, but also a high rate of recovery in the form of taxation. From the inception of the State there has been an inability to contain the spiral of labour costs; there are however signs that the limit of some classes of taxpayers has been reached, notably professional, academic and non-union classes. These seldom reach the headlines, but they are indicated by the sheer inability of the young professional type of citizen to support a wife and family, without the wife making her contribution to maintain a financially restricted household in rented accommodation. The State Controller's report published in the "Jerusalem Post" of 28th April, 1969, notes that tax revenue fell short of the Estimate by 20 per cent, and State debts more than doubled; the Hilton Hotel of which the State has 85 per cent equity in three years' operations has lost four million U.S. dollars; The Zim Navigation Co. (74 per cent government ownership) losses reached 30 million Israeli Pounds, whilst the same report said that State loans had been made without adequate security, and that during 1967/68 20 million Israeli Pounds were cancelled as borrowers had left the country without trace. These are disclosures which must have a bearing on the confidence of the Government's efficiency, both within and outside Israel.

GENERAL PROPERTY AND BUSINESS TAXES

In visiting the commercial centres of both the West and East sides of Jerusalem, it was noticeable that, except for certain Banks, the area space of most shops was minutely small due, I was informed, to the tax rated on the square metre of space, which also applies to household and business property. This is the rate, of course, imposed on the Western side of Jerusalem, and which they are trying to impose on the occupied part of East Jerusalem. Again, in the West, in the case of residential property, rates vary according to the locality and the household fittings and equipment, and the possession of a fully equipped kitchen with all modern conveniences will attract much higher rates.

INCOME TAX

The two Arab hotels which were recently compelled to make payment, were assessed at 75 per cent higher than the previous

Jordan assessment. They paid rather than lose equipment which they could not possibly replace. A shoe shop was obliged to pay an assessment of 65 Dinars rather than lose 300 pairs of shoes by distraint—the owner had to find friends who would loan the sum. These give some indication of the difficulties East Jerusalem businessmen and also householders have now to face, and there is little doubt about what was meant when the Israel authorities commented that by Arab refusal to co-operate in conforming with the taxation law, they would be committing "suicide." I was informed that immediately following the June war, former Jewish colleagues greeted their Arab friends with surprise, as they had not expected them to have remained, believing as in 1948 that the middle classes and the intelligentsia would have been forced to leave.

There is abundant evidence that Israel is placing such pressure on the Arab East Jerusalem businessmen and those with property or capital, that they will either conform and face political and economic ruin, or consider it preferable to cut their losses and leave. Israel is certainly able to exercise an economic stranglehold on the life of every citizen, whether in the professional, business or academic spheres. And charitable and religious institutions are similarly finding costs rising steeply beyond the sources of their contributors, so that, if and when they are compelled to leave, the State will take over their properties and reap another capital harvest.

LAND EXPROPRIATION

On the 18th April 1968 the Minister of Finance issued in the Official Gazette a notice (appendix "B") concerning 116 dunums in the Old City as marked on Map H.B./1/108/322 (copy available for inspection at the Jerusalem Committee headquarters on request or on payment of 2/6d. post free) which land they state is required for public use under the "expropriation Law of 1943." (This is an extension of the land cleared of dwelling houses after the hostilities to give access to the Wailing Wall, during which 145 houses were demolished and 300 families evicted, when an aged woman (Rasimia Abu Nachleh al Mughrabieh) was buried alive under the ruins of her house.)

This new extension will involve the removal of :

1303 houses

438 shops

5 mosques

4 Islamic schools

and the disturbance of about 1050 families, some 200 of whom, being tenants, have received offers up to 3,000 Israeli Pounds to leave, and in certain cases have agreed to do so. The map shows the area clearly marked and the land is owned entirely by the Moslem (Waqf) Authorities.

It might be of interest here briefly to sketch the historical background to the Jewish claims and relationship with the Western (Wailing) Wall—this property of the Moslem Waqf for centuries has been connected with the spot associated with the Prophet's nocturnal flight from Mecca to Jerusalem, and with the place where Buraq, the winged horse, was tethered. The area was owned by the North African Waqf foundation where in 1193 the Maghrahieh Mosque was built. In 1840, under the Egyptian Muhammad Ali, a Jewish petition was made to pave in front of a place known at the time as the "Wailing Place." This was considered and refused because concessions might be interpreted to imply ownership, and not merely privilege. Nevertheless, Moslem tolerance and indulgence towards Jewish travellers and refugees, had for generations allowed Jewish prayers at the exterior of the Western Wall of al Haram, and even sanctioned the use of a building as a synagogue near the Mosque, mainly for the Sephardic Jews from Morocco. In the late 19th century, a Jewish attempt to introduce chairs and screens, and to acquire part of the area by purchase was resisted, but the number of Jews in Jerusalem were relatively few, and an estimate given by the British Consul in 1857 was only 3,000. Since 1911, when the Turkish Governor of Jerusalem in response to another petition, sanctioned Jews to "visit the Wall of the Buraq outside al Haram, providing they stood during their visit on their feet," the Jewish claim to possession of the Wailing (Western) Wall has been prompted by political overtones linked with the Zionist movement. Today, the Western (Wailing) Wall is of interest mainly to the Orthodox Extremist Jews, and of course tourists, and it is for schemes connected with the latter that 116 dunums and Arab homes built on land bordering on that space were "expropriated for public use." The Arabs were made homeless.

Outside the Old City on Mount Scopus over 3,000 expropriated dunums are the scene of intensive building activity to establish an area of buildings associated with the University campus. These include the Harry Truman Peace Foundation, the Martin Buber Foundation and similar memorial buildings named after various dignitaries. In addition, in the course of construction are new wide roadways which were part of the Mandatory roadway scheme for the preservation of the environs of Jerusalem. Also a whole new settlement is planned for this area with prefabricated houses springing up near the beautiful stone built houses of the Arabs. In pushing forward so rapidly the Israelis must be suspected of having strategic reasons, because this land affords a situation which is militarily vital to the occupation of all Jerusalem, and Israel has never disguised her intention of holding Jerusalem permanently. There appears also to be the intention to make the whole of Scopus a University Campus and to include the Lutheran property occupied presently as the Augusta Victoria Hospital, which if and when the Lutherans are willing, could be taken over by the Israeli State. The Israelis want in this way to present the world with a speedy "fait accompli." It is not inconceivable that the Arab lands which bridge Mount Scopus and the Mount of Olives will become part of this ambitious plot to acquire and develop land, properties and Holy Sites now owned by Arabs and Christian institutions. Money for such a plan would conveniently be wrung from Diaspora pockets, and the U.S. Tax Authorities, and would be squeezed from the present owners of the land and properties, at the current Israeli "compensation" rates (as defined under the Land Acquisition Law 1953) of 15 to 25 Israeli pounds per dunum (1950 valuation) though it is worth noting here that the Jordan Government bought in 1965 a property at the foot of Mt. Scopus for a new Government Hospital at 350 Jordan Dinars per dunum. (Exchange rate 1 Dinar—10 Israeli pounds.)

ARAB DWELLING DEMOLITION

Since the conclusion of the June War for one reason or another a total of some hundreds of Arab dwelling houses have been demolished, and the occupants obliged to leave and find other accommodation. All this in spite of the Geneva Convention of 1949 article 53 which prohibits "the destruction by an Occupying Power of moveable and immovable property, except where such destruction is rendered necessary by military operations;" the Convention was signed and ratified by Israel on 12th August 1949.

The instances related occurred in the Latrun area where three villages were destroyed together with their owners movable property, and 46 persons died whose names have been recorded and are available for reference at the Jerusalem Committee H.Q. on application.

The three villages are Emwas, Yalo and Beit Nuba :

YALO—11th June, 1967

Troops appeared and ordered occupants to leave; commenced using bull-dozers and razed the village to the ground. Christmas 1969 Eucalyptus trees were being planted to cover all traces of the village. (Photographs and eye witness report available at Jerusalem Committee.) Population 2,500.

BEIT NUBA—14th June 1967 to 28th June, 1967

Village destroyed and, as above, occupants made to leave, Population 3,000.

EMWAS—27th June, 1967 to 12th July, 1967

Village demolished and occupants compelled to leave. Population 3,650.

As the demolitions were completed the rubble was removed and buried, household contents were not removed by the occupants since the notice given to them was too short, and were either buried or removed by the occupying forces (a representative of the Committee picked up at random in January 1969 a spoon, a dress and a pile of documents of births, deaths, marriages, house sales, etc. dating from Mandate and Jordanian times which the Mayor of Emwas had to leave behind when the villagers were rushed out of their houses).

When a party of the occupants returned hoping to salvage and collect personal properties, it is reported that the men of the party were killed, and their bereaved and destitute women were sent away without their belongings. This evacuation of approximately 9,000 persons in the month after the hostilities had ceased, and the careful methods to erase the villages completely, has never been denied or explained by the Israel Military authorities. Of the 46 persons who died, all were said to be infirm, old and in some cases blind. One thousand eight hundred and thirty dwellings were demolished. It has been suggested that the three villages created a " bulge in the

demarcation line between Israel proper and the West Bank Military Area." It has also been said that this Arab land was coveted by the Israelis. I have noted that the Israelis are quick to seize areas which are easy to irrigate and mechanise.

Here are other instances where dwellings have been demolished :

Samaria —in Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarem and Qalqilya	2635 houses
Hebron —In Beit Awa, Beir Musru and Shyub	399 houses
Gaza	280 houses
Ramallah and Bireh	33 houses
Bethlehem	45 houses

The above were as recorded up to 26th April, 1969, and are subject to any subsequent operations by the Military Authorities. Travelling throughout Israel an observant and knowledgeable traveller may see groups of trees out of keeping with the rest of the ordered landscape, such as fig or olive trees, very tall conifers, hedges of cactus and mimosa; these indicate the sites of former villages where Arab owners once lived, once 90 per cent of the population.

ARABS UNDER DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGES

These are estimated to be around 5,000 persons presently detained in the various Military Detention Centres. These Detention Centres come under Military Law and not under the normal Israeli Civil Law.

All prisoners within them are suspected persons, and all are still awaiting trial but still without charges having been made against them. There is no means of checking whether those who have disappeared into them are alive or dead. Meantime they are said to be subjected to humiliation, degradation, and continuous interrogation, often accompanied by ill-treatment and torture. Torture is sometimes carried out before the prisoner's own relatives, with threats that the relatives may be incriminated with the prisoner, unless they give evidence and help in the interrogation. Neither the International Red Cross nor the United Nations authorities nor Amnesty International have been allowed to inspect these centres, nor the prisoners while in detention. The Israeli civil laws relating to prison procedures are not applicable to the Detention Centres. The Geneva Convention 1949 provides under article 31 and 32, under the "Rules of Occupation" in the

3rd Chapter of the Fourth Convention that the Occupying Power shall observe conditions which shall ensure that physical or moral coercion, injury, mutilation, torture and corporal punishment, as well as any measure of brutality *shall not be applied by civilian or military agents, to persons so detained by the Occupation Authorities*. Israel is a signatory to the Convention, and by a bitter irony of fate, it is sad to note that these texts and conventions were specifically formulated in order to prevent the recurrence of crimes of which the Jews were the unhappy victims during the Second World War and that they are transgressed by these very same people who elect to ignore its provisions entirely in regard to their prisoners in the Detention Centres.

Three notorious cases of detention have been the subject of press reports in recent weeks and the story of Abdallah Kassem Tamimi is just one :

ABDALLAH KASSEM TAMIMI : an Arab from Beit Hanina, Jerusalem, aged 27 years, was arrested during February of this year and died whilst under detention without ever being charged with an offence. It has been reported that he was suspected of concealing or knowing of the concealment of arms and explosives, but none were ever located although his premises were thoroughly searched; he was beaten and ill treated to such an extent that he was unable to stand without being supported. It has been stated that, in this condition, he was taken to his home and confronted by his wife when he was in a state of complete collapse, and again interrogated. He was later carried back to the Centre. Later in March his wife was informed of his death "due to an internal ailment," without an independent medical examination as to the cause of death, and he was buried at night by the Military Authorities. He was a Moslem, and night time burial is against their religion. After his death, protesting women relatives and friends attempted to visit the place where he was buried, but they were prevented from doing so by the Police, who used force to disperse the women and who sprayed coloured water on them in order to be able to identify them later. Four women were arrested but later released. The application for an exhumation and independent post mortem was refused. A press report (Jerusalem Post 17th April, 1969) stated that an enquiry was set up and was later expected to refer its findings to the coroner. This latter report appears to have been made by a magistrate who denied that there had been ill treatment. He claimed that the deceased had died from injuries received in a fall down seven steps whilst his hands were chained behind his back. As this is the last

of many various press statements about the cause of this man's death, and as the authorities refuse an exhumation order and autopsy and will clearly continue to do so until too late, the truth of the magistrate's verdict must obviously be doubted.

A special feature of the protests about the detainees is that they are made by women, some of whom say that their men-folk have been incarcerated in Detention Centres never to be heard of or seen again. A protest sit-in was held on the 22nd April 1969 in the Y.W.C.A. building, when the women met a Swiss Red Cross delegate to whom they gave details of the men concerned. I was in this building at the time and saw around 35 to 40 women assembled, and if they are still unable to obtain information from the Occupation Authorities, or the latter are unable to throw light on the conditions of the Centres, it must become a grave indictment of the Israeli Government and a world scandal which will certainly compare with that surrounding Greece.

There are also a number of women detained without charge, and a copy of a letter (Appendix "C") indicates that both the Red Cross and the U.N. Secretary General have been informed of the following who have been detained, mainly during February and March of this year. These are as listed, and names, ages and the dates on which they were detained is available on enquiry from the Jerusalem Committee.

FROM NABLUS—March, 16 persons (aged 14-40)

FROM JERUSALEM—Feb./March, 8 persons (aged 18-26)

FROM RAMALLAH—March, 4 persons (aged 16-23)

(Note:—the houses of three of the Ramallah women were demolished within 48 hours of them being detained. No reason was given.)

It cannot be doubted that there is need for an Official U.N. investigation into certain aspects of interrogating prisoners in Israel and occupied territories as well as the conditions and reasons for holding persons by the Military Occupation Authorities. If charges are to be made it must follow that there are Military Courts who have knowledge of the cases waiting to be tried. But information concerning such cases is either secret or non-existent.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Israel claims to have made "neglected" Arab land in Palestine blossom and bloom as never in history. But billions of U.S. dol-

lars, German marks and English sterling have poured into Zionist development schemes since 1948. These foreign funds have been computed to be in the neighbourhood of 8 billion U.S. dollars according to the reckoning of Israel's own financial authorities. As the number of Jewish immigrants are probably slightly over two million, the foreign capital outlay expended to produce the blossoms and blooms to be found in Israel today is roughly 4,000 U.S. dollars per immigrant. Let us compare this 4,000 dollars per head with other aid programmes : The Marshall Plan applied to Germany in a war devastated state was computed at 13 billion dollars for a population close on 40,000 million, which means aid on the basis of 30 cents per head.

Aid to the Arab refugees of 1948 from UNRWA has been roughly 15 dollars per annum, or four cents per day per capita for food or, over the same period of time, 300 U.S. dollars per head. These calculations, however, in which the Israeli immigrants appear to have been well favoured financially compared with the exiled Arabs and the war-stricken Germans, leave out a most important factor of aid still to be calculated : —the land and the properties which the Zionists political movement acquired when they snatched the best areas in Palestine : the roads, railways, docks and harbour works, the electrical undertakings, the public and residential property, the water, hospital and postal services left by the British and by the Arab residents who before 1948 owned 90 per cent of the land, is worth billions of dollars. The Zionists paid the British Government only six million Sterling pounds over a period of 15 years in "compensation."

Nor is this all, for in travelling through Israel today one cannot but be struck by the prolific number of plates and notices recording the names of donors of this building, of that piece of scientific equipment, or that work of art, to say nothing of the foreign technical and scientific expertise of Jewish non-residents many of whom have died, and the gifts have resulted as a memorial. It would be something of a novelty, therefore, to find reference to a contribution from a resident Israeli or Sabra to the "blossom and the bloom." The energy of the current immigrant population of Israel is directed to wringing money out of the pockets of Zionists in Europe and America to keep them going.

Jews have indeed contributed great thoughts, music, art and literature, science and financial skills to the world as a whole; what has the Zionist State produced except hatred and discord in a part of the world which for centuries protected and nurtured their religious outcasts from European ghettos?

CONTRASTS TO WATCH FOR

During the past month I have observed how the best land has been utilised to produce crops, has been irrigated and cultivated with the scientific experience of other countries, has been aided by the use of fertilisers and the best mechanical equipment, and it is admittedly an impressive scene. It is correct that en route to Jerusalem from Lod and certain show places, well planned settlements strike the eye of the visitor, and attention is drawn to forestry plantations given by many whose connections with the country and knowledge of it is the result of Zionist "pleading" propaganda, or the memory of some earlier European tragedy.

But the alert and unbiassed observer also notes the not inconsiderable forestation belts grown under the Mandatory Government, far in excess of later gifts, and observes the rows and rows of terraced hillside land which once flourished under skilled Arab husbandry, and which is now neglected and unproductive. One can also see the citrus plantations overgrown and unkept, probably because the "Absentee Property Custodian" has failed to find willing Israeli contractors to conserve or cultivate them at a favourable cost, and the neglected look of olive groves dunum on dunum along the way. One might speculate on the results which an impartial cost analysis might find in current crop outturns under modern cultivation, bearing in mind the immense investment of the last 21 years, and how these would compare with Mandatory or earlier production costs. There might well be a startling imbalance found in modern costing, sufficient to raise doubts in that Department concerned with research and development. It cannot be denied that the Mandate provided the bones and structural foundations for the roads, rail, docks and public services, the public buildings and smaller hospitals, whilst millions of Sterling pounds worth of solid stone edifices of all descriptions were taken from Arabs and these are today sunk in neglect and disrepair because of the maladministration by the Custodian or Development Authority.

The road to Gaza through Hebron and Beer Sheba seemed to lack evidence of a "blooming desert" theory, even after the unusually heavy rainfall this year; Beer Sheba and its purlieus seem, like Topsy to have "just grown" and this is true of many of the settlements off the beaten track. To a visitor who has been visibly impressed by the ambitious new planning of Jerusalem, this comes as rather a shock. But perhaps he might have been more

prepared had he ventured into that area of the outskirts of the New City where he would surely have paused to wonder at the rickety structures housing the intensive poultry and egg production units, or the Yemenite dwellings nearby from which unchecked drainage flows across the motor road.

The image which is given by the authorities, and the ariel view of orderly high powered efficiency one gains on landing at Lod, is shaken if not obliterated upon entering the airport reception halls, where one has to struggle through a confusing clamour of requests that baffle comprehension in a cacophony of reverberated loud-speaker announcements.

This is Israel—brash, untidy, ruthless, pushing—living for each day—and always, always asking for money.

CONCLUSION

Finally, in reply to the question with which I began—"why do the Arabs stay and not join the 100 million other Arabs"—well, just because it is their Homeland, and because their homeland is as precious to them as an Englishman's home is to him. But why Israeli immigrants do not leave for a better life which they know is available elsewhere needs a longer answer: first and foremost, many do leave and many more wish that they could do so. As to the remainder, they recognise that Zionist promises have meant no improvement in their life from that which many of them enjoyed in their former homeland. Higher wages have meant considerably higher taxes and living costs. But as long as the Zionist "bogy" threat of annihilation can be made to look convincing, Diaspora subsidies will bridge the gap, and an occasional flare-up stimulates subsidies from the West. Zionist propaganda necessitates more and more stories of Arab "threats," followed by more requests for better arms to "beat the Arabs." But most important of all, "more and still more MONEY," because Zionist policies (and politicians) cannot live without vast injections of foreign capital from countries like Britain, whose economy cannot afford it. £3 million was gathered in less than a week from British Zionists to help Israel's war at a time when the British chancellor was pleading for restraint on sending sterling abroad and curtailing British travelling allowances to £50 per head!

Stop the money and the war would end. Many Israelis are beginning to worry about their children's future under Zionist

policies, and the repercussions of those policies upon their neighbours, the dispossessed Palestinians, and the conscience of a slowly awakening world.

One encounters in Israel today little cause for optimism about a future based on extreme Zionism. This appears to envisage an exclusively Jewish state in which non-Jews have no place, and those who remain are restricted in numbers, suffered to remain only on tolerance, forced to accept taxation without representation and to be subject to deportation if politically unco-operative. If a Jew marries a non-Jew, the marriage is not recognised and the non-Jewish partner is without political standing.

All Jews are subject to military service in one or other capacity—all are heavily taxed—none may leave the country before being cleared by the tax authorities and, to the ordinary tax payer, foreign exchange is severely restricted.

Every Jew however, whatever his birthplace and nationality, is granted automatic citizenship on entering Israel as an immigrant, is also granted subsidies and help to secure his ultimate self-support, and is exempted from taxation for three years. Yet still the rate of immigration is low (8,000 in the first three months of 1969) and many seek to leave if it becomes personally possible to do so.

The racist, theocratic discrimination on which the Zionist State is based is completely the reverse of the special tolerance which the Arabs have shown for centuries in their traditional policy co-existence with the "People of the Book"—the Christians and the Jews.

It is curious to see many who were themselves the victims of horror, intolerance, deprivation and fear, perpetrate the same nastiness and despoilation even to the point of genocide upon a wholly innocent people in the name of "Zionism." It is quite as curious to watch the double-standards of certain muddled "socialists" and "liberals" outside Palestine who are further confused by considerations of national interests and financial pressure groups.

Nevertheless, there is some evidence that small sections of the Israeli public may be realising the need to come to terms with the Arab communities, and would seek the means for Arabs and Jews to live together in peace. And they know that justice which the *Palestinian Arab accepts as just* is a prerequisite to any peace.

But these voices are easily silenced by the propaganda machine reflecting the euphoria of military expansion.

JOHN CARTER,

May, 1969

APPENDIX "A"

COMPARISON OF PRICES OF VARIOUS ESSENTIAL ARTICLES AS CARRIED OUT BY THE ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, OLD CITY, JERUSALEM

		<i>In Jordan Dinars Before 5th June 1967</i>		<i>11th Nov. 1968</i>	
			<i>Increase %</i>		
		per	%		
1.	Meat—Sheep/Cattle	Kg.	0.440	46 %	0.800
2.	Coffee ground Aden No. 2	„	0.640	36 %	1,000
3.	Tea—best Ceylon	„	0.720	28 %	1.000
4.	Flour—local Zero	„	0.050	—	0.050
5.	Sugar (Granulated)	„	0.040	38 %	0.065
6.	Rice	„	0.080	50 %	0.120
7.	Potatoes	„	0.045	25 %	0.060
8.	Tomatoes	„	0.030	70 %	0.100
9.	Beans	„	0.035	70 %	0.120
10.	Houmos—Chick Peas Grd.	„	0.070	52 %	0.150
11.	Lentils	„	0.070	41 %	0.120
12.	Chick Peas	„	0.080	50 %	0.160
13.	Sesame Seeds	„	0.030	35 %	0.200
14.	Dates	„	0.080	33 %	0.120
15.	Onions—dry	„	0.040	50 %	0.080
16.	White Timber	cu. mtr.	25.000	40 %	42.000
17.	Swedish Timber	„	35.000	38 %	57.000
18.	Beach Wood	„	40.000	50 %	80.000
19.	Ply Wood	„	70.000	36 %	110.000
20.	Window Glass	Metres	0.400	42 %	0.700
21.	Olive Oil	Kg.	0.320	8 %	0.350
22.	Beans—Edible—dry	„	0.050	54 %	0.110
23.	Medicines various generally		—	80 %	—
24.	Clothing		—	50 %	—
25.	Transport		—	100 %	—
26.	Taxes		—	100 % *	—
27.	Butter		—	20 %	—
28.	Oils		—	40 %	—
Average general rise in Cost of Living			70 %		
<i>Later Following given by professional auditor :—</i>					
Car Licenses			500 %		
Driving Licenses			300 %		
Petrol			70 %		
Purchase Tax			40 to 100 %		
Income Tax Assessment			75 %		

APPENDIX " B "

OFFICIAL GAZETTE

1443

18.4.68

Expropriation Law (Expropriation for public use) (1943)

Notice in accordance with articles 5, 7.

Notice is hereby given that the Land in the enclosed supplement is required by the Minister of Finance for Public use. The Minister of Finance is prepared for negotiation in connection with expropriation. Anyone who claims ownership or benefit of any kind in the said land and wishes to claim compensation should write to the Director of Land Registry within two months of the publication of this order in the Official Gazette stating his right in the above land or his use of it and all other details supporting his claims. Title deeds should be quoted and the amount of compensation required.

We wish to declare that the Minister of Finance intends to expropriate the said Land as it is required urgently for public use and orders every person to hand over the land immediately.

Supplement

Plot of land within the city walls in Jerusalem area 116 dunums and the marked in blue in Map HB/1/108/322 scale 1 : 500 and signed by the Minister of Finance except areas bounded in red Line on the said map. Copies of this map are available in the Land Registry Office and the Military Governor etc. etc.

Signed

Minister of Finance.

APPENDIX " C "

10th April, 1969

His Excellency,
The United Nations Secretary General,
Through General Od Bull,
U.N.T.S.O.,
Government House,
Jerusalem.

Dear Sir,

We, families and relatives of hundreds of men and women detained recently by the Occupation Authorities in the West Bank of Jordan, submit our grievances to the United Nations hoping for the appropriate response to minimize the sufferings and indignity to which the detainees are exposed.

The atrocious methods applied by the Occupation Authorities during the mass arrests and after detention, and which included the violation of homes in midnight, the humiliation of families, the brutal treatment during and after arrest, and the use of torture, remind us of the Nazist methods and remove the only barrier of humanity between man and beast.

The most recent case of Abdallah Kassem Tamimi, who was tortured to death in his prison in Jerusalem, is only an example of the treatment offered by the Zionist murderers to the Arab prisoners.

In addition, the occupiers committed a further crime by demolishing many houses belonging to those arrested or to their families and relatives, even before any fabricated charge or trial.

All these black measures constitute a flagrant violation of the human rights and International principles and a defiance of the Geneva Convention and the United Nations decisions.

While we again, record our utter rejection to occupation and our insistence not to surrender to the blackmail of violence, we appeal to the intervention of the United Nations to put an end to such atrocities, and to send a fact-finding mission to investigate the condition of the civilian population in the occupied areas.

Sgd. by parents and relatives of arrested
persons, both males and females.

Enclosed—list of names of detained women.
copy to : Representative of the International Red Cross,
Jerusalem.

WAKE UP

DO YOU KNOW

about the plight of the 1½ million Palestinians in Exile—
their homeland plundered and usurped by racists and
theocrats bent on expanding a "pure Jewish State?"

OR

the facts about the torture and brutality inflicted upon
political prisoners in Israel?

OR

that Arabs are held in prison without charge?

OR

that the great annual Moslem pilgrimage to Jerusalem has
been stopped?

AND

that nine million Arab Christians are denied access to
Jerusalem?

OR

about the terrible consequences to the Arabs of the proposed
"Registration Laws" in Jerusalem?

DO YOU KNOW

that Arab land and property is seized without compensa-
tion?

OR

that homes have been bulldozed with their occupants inside?

HAVE YOU LEARNT

about the contempt under Zionism for Christian and Moslem
holy places, and the profanity and sacrilege now common in
Jerusalem?

AND DO YOU CARE ?

THEN JOIN THE JERUSALEM COMMITTEE

