



**what if  
it happened  
to YOU**



**THE JERUSALEM COMMITTEE**  
**P.O. BOX: 470 LONDON S.W.3.**

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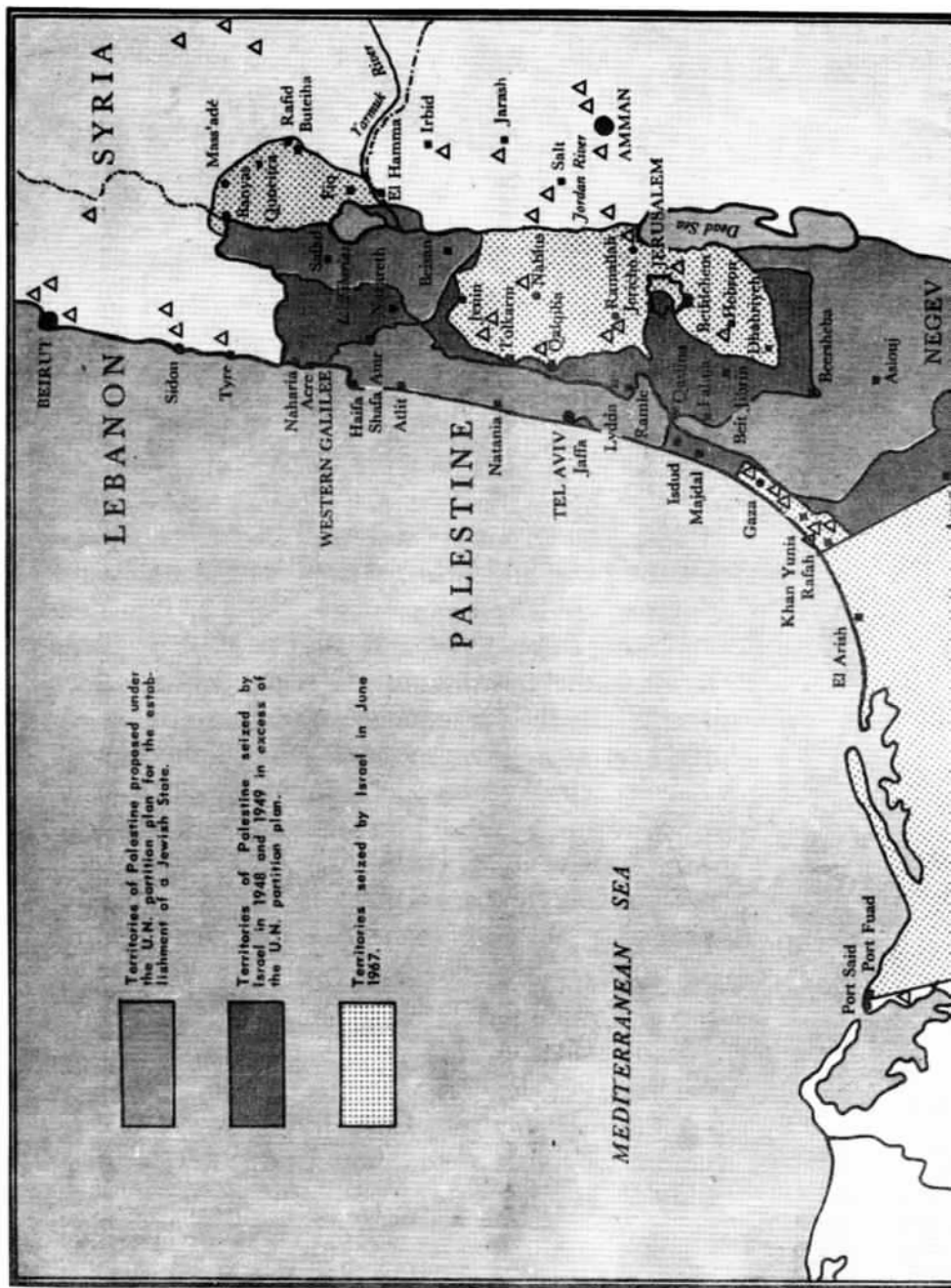
**Manuela Sykes**

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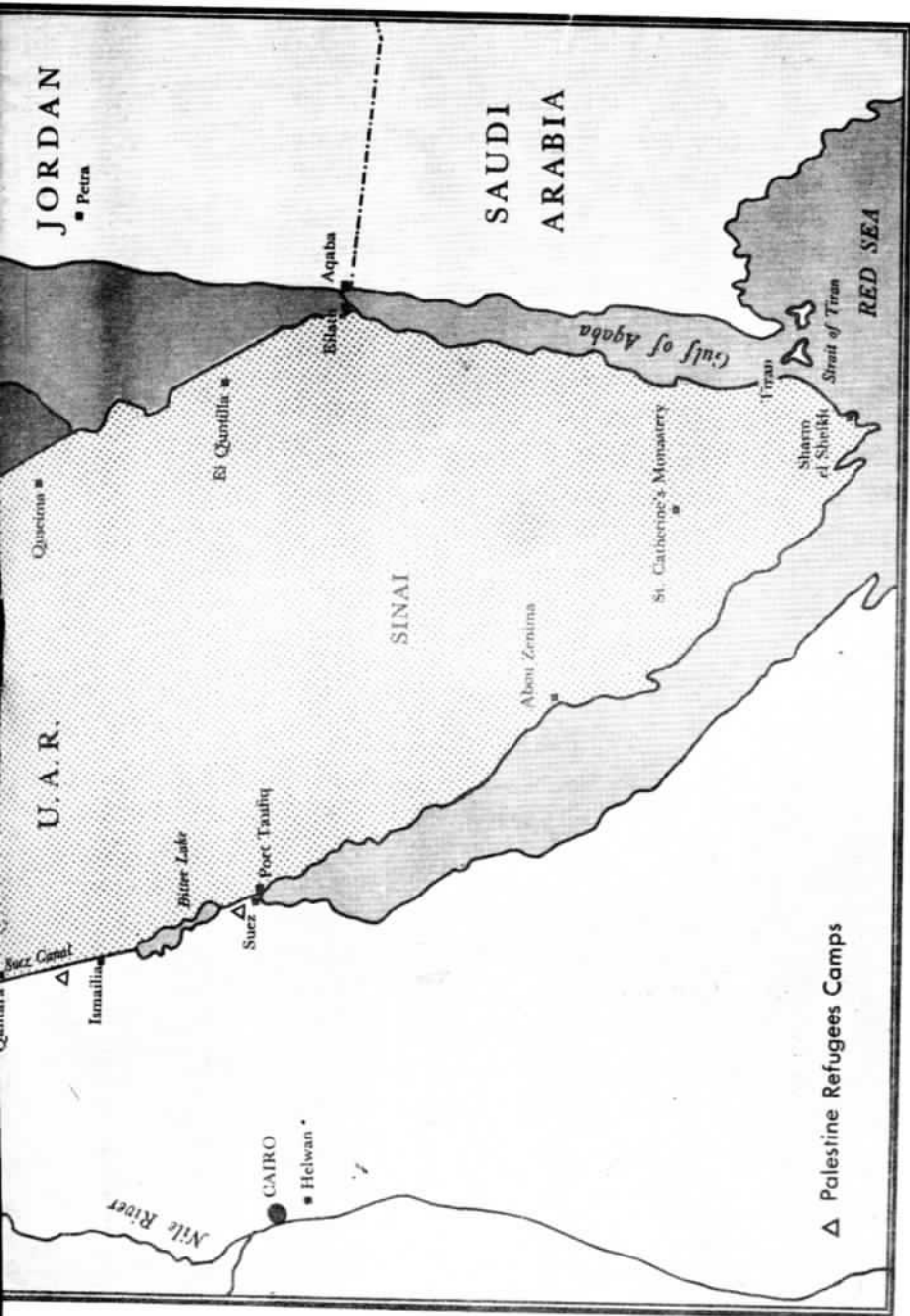
**T**his is an open letter to the ordinary man and woman in Britain, who knows only too well that when politicians mess things up, it is the ordinary folk who suffer. When politicians do a deal there is often a human sacrifice involved. And when politicians make something sound most complicated, then the real issue is very simple.

**S**o it is with this "Middle East Crisis". The signators of the United Nations November 1967 Security Council Resolution declared their concern to bring about "a just and lasting peace in the Middle East"; but because they decided to ignore that the basic and primary cause of the war is the admitted injustice dealt to the Arabs of Palestine, amounting to genocide, and because they ignore the fact that the hostility of the neighbouring Arab states is only the consequence of that continuing act, they have therefore produced a Resolution which, whatever else it may do, cannot possibly bring justice to the victim. The victims, the Palestinian Arabs, have been deprived of nationhood and statehood and therefore are not able to become a member spokesman at the United Nations, where their judges decree their fate.

The Resolution speaks in its second part of "a just settlement of the refugee problem", having established in the rest of the text conditions which make this particular clause meaningless. Let us examine what sort of Middle East this Resolution is trying to create:







**1** Israel in its present racial exclusiveness is guaranteed land far in excess of the original gift from the United Nations (which it was not entitled to give) in 1948, land obtained in all manner of ways contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, including expropriation and war. Some, but not all, of the most recently conquered land is expected to be returned, but the United Nations, the “Great Powers”, and the Arab States themselves are expected to protect Israel for all time.

**2** That means that the Arab States are being asked not only never to use their own forces against Israel, which by itself means the abandonment of the Palestinians, but also actively to use their forces to kill those Palestine guerrillas who threaten Israel from their soil.

**3** It means that Israel will finally be rid of the consequences of the expulsion and takeover of the Arab lives and lands which made its own creation possible.

**4** In return it means that Israel will not be able to get still more Arab land by war (which is why a great many political observers believe that it has not accepted the Resolution) and that it will be obliged to relinquish the West Bank of Jordan, most of the Gaza Strip—and Jerusalem, which is not negotiable for the Arabs.

**5** That means that Egypt and Jordan will have a condition of peace in which to rebuild their shattered economies and plan a future free from the fear of war and further conquest.

**6** In theory it means that all the other Arab States should be able to do likewise, because the guarantee of security from war applies not only to Israel, but also to

Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq.

**7**

It means that Egypt, Jordan and Syria will lose some of their territory to Israel.

**8**

It means a permanent United Nations police force on the soil of several countries and a consequent drain of money on the guaranteeing powers.

**9**

It means the final defeat by world consent of the real victims of this tragedy: the Palestinians. At best they will be given the choice to settle—as many as can—on the West Bank of the Jordan, in some kind of conditional demilitarised federation with Jordan, if not actually under Jordanian rule. Some kind of economic links with Israel are being built into plans of this kind—plans imposed by others upon a proud people, which constitute a total denial in the name of the United Nations to that very right to self-determination and self-government admitted under the Charter. At worst they will be given the alternative of what is called compensation, though nobody has yet set a higher price than £150 for the loss of homeland, home, businesses, friends and roots, to build life again in somebody else's country. The choice of country will be limited and their human rights not necessarily secure.

**T**he Palestinians have rejected the Resolution and substituted the offer of a free Palestine in which they and the settled population of what is now Israel, Moslem, Jew and Christian alike, should join in a unitary, democratic, non-racist and secular government which would bury the past and build a new future together.

Israel has rejected both the United Nations Resolution and the Palestinian offer.

It should be explained that the Resolution was widely accepted by conflicting views because it was thought possible to interpret it in several ways. The Great Powers' interpretation has been made clear by the above analysis which is the basis of all their major public statements and private negotiations. But the Arabs hoped that the clause calling for "a just solution to the refugee problem" would permit a return of all the Palestine exiles who so wished to their land with unfettered freedom and full participation in Government.

Egypt and Jordan, who have repeatedly accepted the Resolution under this second interpretation are seeing more and more concessions being made to Israel as time drags on, and their own land and future eroded and exploited. They are being forced to accept that the interpretation which is being negotiated is not theirs. Either in

*the loss of trust and hope or as a desperate bid to force the "Powers" to make Israel accept limitation along with security of boundaries, President Nasser has said that bloodshed seems the only road left to justice.*

*A wise Englishman once said "that what is morally wrong can never be politically right", and his countrymen will readily understand that this applies not only to our own affairs, but also to the actions and attitudes taken in our name elsewhere, especially perhaps, to the Holy Land of Palestine.*

MANUELA SYKES

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RESOLUTION OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL S/RES/242 (1967) OF  
NOVEMBER 22, 1967, CONCERNING  
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Expressing its continuing concern with the grave situation in the Middle East,

Emphasising the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in which every State in the area can live in security,

Emphasising further that all Member States in their acceptance of the Charter of the United Nations have undertaken a commitment to act in accordance with Article 2 of the Charter,

Affirms that the fulfilment of Charter principles requires the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East which should include the application of both the following principles:

Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict:

Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognised boundaries free from threats or acts of force;

Affirms further the necessity

For guaranteeing freedom of navigation through international waterways in the area;

For achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem;

For guaranteeing the territorial inviolability and political independence of every State in the area, through measures including the establishment of demilitarised zones:

Requests the Secretary-General to designate a special representative to proceed to the Middle East to establish and maintain contact with the States concerned in order to promote agreement and assist efforts to achieve a peaceful and accepted settlement in accordance with the provisions and principles of this resolution:

Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on the progress of the efforts of the special representative as soon as possible.

November 22, 1967.

**Bulletins previously published:**

- 1. Report No. 1. A visit to Jerusalem and the West Bank, Christmas 1968.**
- 2. Report No. 2. Schoolgirls in Gaza.**
- 3. Eye-witness in Jerusalem.**
- 4. Handouts.**

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