

HOW TO ANSWER ANTI-ISRAEL  
PROPAGANDA

by

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

In recent years there has been an increasing number of anti-Israel motions being debated at the University Unions throughout the country.

Unfortunately, Jewish students at the campuses have not been equipped to argue these motions and lack the necessary knowledge to reply to anti-Israel propaganda.

For this reason I have instituted in the King David High School, Liverpool, a sixth-form course entitled "How to Answer Anti-Israel Propaganda". This course is now in its second year and sixth-formers who left the School last July and are now at the various universities are successfully defending anti-Israel motions.

With all the academic pressures on students today, it is not possible for them to read through all the relevant books, pamphlets and leaflets on the subject: I have therefore sifted through this material and summarised Israel's case in about twenty pages. This booklet is now being issued to our sixth-formers.

Obviously in twenty pages one cannot be exhaustive and I shall be glad to receive comments and observations on this booklet.

## HOW TO ANSWER ANTI-ISRAEL PROPAGANDA

### SECTION 1

#### ISRAEL'S RIGHTS AND JEWISH RIGHTS TO ERETZ ISRAEL

There are three different approaches to rights to Eretz Israel (Palestine).

- (i) the religious approach
- (ii) the international legal approach
- (iii) the security approach

and each of these will be dealt with in turn.

##### (i) The religious approach

The world was created by the Almighty and he designated a certain part of it to be known as Eretz Israel to the Jewish people. Over the remainder of the World, the Jewish people have no claim. The borders of Eretz Israel are clearly defined in the Divine Promise made to Abraham. In Jewish law it is forbidden to compromise on these borders.

It may be asked what the point is in quoting our religious Biblical title to Eretz Israel to people of other religions. However, even in today's materialistic world, the Bible is the world's best seller and sincerely held religious beliefs are regarded with respect. When a person takes high office or gives evidence in Court, he swears on the Bible.

Ben-Gurion stated to the British Royal Commission in 1936 that "The Bible is our Mandate." Recently, the Israeli representative at the United Nations presented as a document the verses in Genesis dealing with Abraham's purchase of the Cave of Machpelah in order to support the Jewish claim to this site.

One should mention here that it is also written in the Koran, the Moslem Bible, in Surah (Chapter) 5, that Eretz Israel was given to the Jewish People. "Recall when Moses said to his people....Oh, my people, enter the Holy Land which Allah has written down as yours."

##### (ii) The international legal approach

According to international law, to whom does the area known as Eretz Israel (Palestine) belong? A number of papers on this subject have been written by international lawyers and the position can be summarised as follows :-

The normal procedure to determine the title to a particular area is to trace the chain of title back from the present claimant to a holder whose rights were unquestioned. In the case of Palestine, Turkey was the unquestioned holder during the period of Ottoman rule and in 1923, she renounced her rights to Palestine. By this time, the Council of the League of Nations had already granted the Palestine Mandate to Great Britain, which continued until 1948. Although international lawyers disagree as to where sovereignty is situated in a Mandated territory, this point is of no practical interest today in the case of Palestine.

In 1947, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Partition resolution which called for the division of Palestine into two states - one Jewish and one Arab.

Not only did the Arab states reject this resolution, in May 1948 they entered Palestine to destroy the new State of Israel. As a result of this armed invasion by the Arab States, part of the proposed Arab state was captured by Transjordan (i.e. the West Bank and East Jerusalem) and was unilaterally annexed by her in April 1950; part was captured by Egypt (i.e. the Gaza Strip) and the remainder was captured by Israel.

Therefore by the end of the War of Independence in 1949 Israel was in possession of the area of Palestine allotted to the Jewish State and part of the area allotted to the Arab State. What was Israel's title to these two areas? Israel acquired title to those parts allotted to the Jewish state because she could not and did not commit any infringement of anyone else's rights in perfecting her title to this area. She also acquired title to the areas allotted to the Arab state but captured in the war of independence, which included New Jerusalem, Beersheba, Ramla and Nazareth, because she was compelled to occupy them by way of self-defensive measures.

On the other hand, Transjordan acquired no title to the West Bank nor Egypt to the Gaza strip, since the invasion of Palestine by these states was in violation of international law. In fact no countries in the World except Britain and Pakistan recognised Jordan's unilateral annexation of the West Bank. Even the other Arab countries did not recognise it and when Jordan annexed this area, the Political Committee of the Arab League voted to expel her from the Arab League!

In 1967, the Arab states made another attack to destroy the State of Israel. The Six Day war followed and as a result, Israel captured (amongst other places), the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In the same way as Israel gained title to the areas captured in the War of Independence, she gained title to the West Bank and Gaza Strip which were captured in the Six Day War.

Therefore anyone not recognising Israel's right to Hebron, Shechem, Jericho and Gaza because they were captured in the 1967 war must by the same logic not recognise Israel's right to Beersheba, Ramla and Nazareth because they were captured in the 1948 war. In other words, if the West Bank and Gaza Strip are to be considered as occupied territories, so must parts of the Negev and Galilee be considered likewise.

In summary, no country in the world can produce a better title to the West Bank and Gaza Strip than Israel.

(iii) The security approach

If one looks at Israel's pre-1967 borders, one immediately sees a coastal strip about 9 miles wide which contains the main population centres of Israel, - Tel-Aviv, Ramat Gan, Petach, Tiqva, Natania. We also see the very narrow Jerusalem corridor. Look at two places on your local map which are only nine miles apart and you will then appreciate how narrow and vulnerable Israel was before the Six Day War. During this War, a shell fired from Kalkilya in the West Bank exploded in Tel-Aviv, only half a mile from the Mediterranean Sea.

Today Israel's "Friends" are advising her to return to these borders "with insubstantial modifications". As Shmuel Katz says on this "the principle that the victim of aggression should restore the means of aggression to the aggressor does not on only sound preposterous, it is preposterous."



In the Second World War, Germany made an act of aggression against nearly the whole of Europe and Japan made an unprovoked attack in the Far East. Finally both these countries were defeated. The map of Europe was not however the same after the Second World War. For example, parts of Poland, Rumania, and Finland were annexed by the Soviet Union. She also annexed the Japanese Kurile Islands and part of the island of Sakhalin. The Soviet Union did this as a security measure in case these countries attacked her again and the world accepted these annexations. No one in his right mind would suggest today that Poland, Rumania, Finland or Japan are a threat to the security of the Soviet Union yet no one would even propose that the Soviet Union return these areas to those countries.

The Soviet Union is the largest country in the world. The areas annexed by her after the Second World War have a negligible effect on her security. In complete contrast to this, the areas captured by Israel in the Six Day War are her first line of defense. From the security approach, we can see how much more so Israel has the right to annex these areas to insure against further attack from the Arabs, who are still preaching about the elimination of Israel.

#### Modern History

It is unfortunate that today people forget their Modern History and only think of Israel's 1949 borders. In fact these were not even borders but only armistice lines indicating where the fighting stopped. Here therefore are some facts concerning borders in the Middle East.

In 1919, at the Paris Peace Conference, the World Zionist Organisation suggested borders for a Jewish State which not only included the West Bank but also a good chunk of the East Bank. Emir Feisal, an acknowledged leader of the Arabs in his famous letter to Mr. Frankfurter, described these borders as "moderate and proper."

Under Turkish rule, (until 1917) Arab countries such as Lebanon, Syria and Iraq did not exist. When, on the defeat of Turkey, the middle-east was divided up by Britain and France, these areas were designated as Arab countries, and the whole of Mandatory Palestine on both sides of the Jordan was designated as the Jewish National Home. The original British negotiator with the Arabs, Sir Henry McMahon wrote to the Colonial Office in 1922, that it was fully his intention to exclude Palestine from the British pledges to the Arabs.

In Arab propaganda material, which alleges to show Israel's continual expansionism, the map of the designated Jewish National Home on both sides of the Jordan is conveniently missing!

In 1922, the British Colonial Secretary, Winston Churchill, detached over three-quarters of the designated Jewish National Home and created a new Arab entity which later became the country of Transjordan. Despite the fact that in 1928, the British delegate made an official declaration to the Council of the League of Nations that "in Transjordan, the Palestine Mandate remains in full force," this did not prevent Britain from granting independence to Transjordan in 1946. This step was a change in the Mandate and was therefore of extremely doubtful legality.

So already in 1946, the Arabs had 76 per cent of Palestine as an independent Arab State. In 1947 it was the remaining quarter which was once again divided between Arabs and Jews thus giving the Arabs well over eighty per cent of Mandatory Palestine.

Today people are being brainwashed into believing that the 1949 lines are proper borders. This in fact is completely erroneous; In fact, those lines are just where the fighting happened to stop and with a different deployment of military forces, the borders would almost certainly have been different. If one looks at the various 1949 Armistice agreements between Israel and the various Arab countries, we find that the demarcation lines between the countries were dictated exclusively by military considerations. At the end of May 1967, a few days before the Six Day War, when the Jordanians were gloating over the prospect of being "Next week in Tel-Aviv," their representative told the security Council "The (Armistice) agreement did not fix boundaries, it fixed the demarcation line." Only after the war turned out in the opposite way, did Jordan together with the World, start demanding that Israel returns to the pre-1967 borders.

Look at today's map of the Arab world and you will see over twenty independent Arab countries whose area is larger than the whole of Europe and whose oil resources bring in more money than the Arabs know what to do with. Israel is only one small country with negligible oil, but the Arabs are still not satisfied, they also want Israel's land.

## HOW TO ANSWER ANTI-ISRAEL PROPAGANDA

### SECTION 2

#### THE ARAB AND JEWISH PRESENCE IN ERETZ ISRAEL

##### THE PALESTINIANS

The amount of propaganda that one is able to put out is proportional to the amount of money at one's disposal and unlike the rest of the world, the Arabs with their oil resources are certainly not short of money. The ancient Egyptians would rewrite history by removing names from their statues, the Russians rewrite history by blotting out faces from photographs, and at present there are attempts to rewrite history to "prove" that the Holocaust never took place. In the same manner, the Arabs are now rewriting the history of Palestine and creating a Palestinian Arab Nation complete with a culture. The twelve page Palestinian Report printed in the Guardian in May 1976 even included sections on Palestinian embroidery and cookery.

One thing the Arabs have not yet succeeded in doing, is rewriting the official documents of the first third of this century. On the basis of rights which the Arabs are now claiming have existed for millenia, we would expect these documents to be full of references to this "long-established Palestinian Arab Nation." In fact, a perusal of documents such as the Balfour Declaration, the Feisal-Francis agreement, the Feisal-Frankfurter letters, the recommendations of the King-Crane Commission, and the articles of the British Mandate will show a complete absence of even a mention of such a Palestinian Arab nation. In fact rights now claimed to have existed for thousands of years were never heard of fifty years ago.

The Arabs today call the land "Palestine." This is not a name used by the Arabs. The name Palestine was given to the country by the Romans nearly two thousand years ago in an attempt to stamp out Jewish identity in Eretz Israel. Surely if the Arabs are now claiming a "Palestinian-Arab nation" with thousands of years of history behind it, the country would have an Arabic name. In contrast, the Black Rhodesians already have their own name, Zimbabwe, for their country in anticipation of black rule.

In actual fact there has never been an independent Arab State in Palestine. There has been a separate Palestinian Arab nation. Recently Zuhair Mohsin, a member of the P.L.O. Executive Committee and Head of its Military Department admitted that "the existence of a separate Palestinian identity is there only for tactical reasons."

There is no doubt that there were Arabs, as distinct from a specific Arab nation living in Palestine, just in the same way as there were Jews living in Iraq, Yemen and other parts of this region for centuries.

It is impossible to state the numbers of Arabs living in Palestine, because prior to World War I, no regular, let alone reliable, population statistics existed in Palestine. The available estimates are often inconsistent and sometimes flatly contradictory. We do know, however, that large numbers of Arabs came to Palestine about a century ago from Egypt, at the time of Mohammed Ali. Research now being undertaken indicates that Arab villages in Samaria, the heart of Arab settlement, are no more than 100-150 years old. From British census figures, we learn that between the two world wars, Arabs settled in areas of intensive Jewish development such as Haifa, Jaffa and Jerusalem, as they wanted to take advantage of the high wages and living standards which were generated by Jewish settlement.



In a report dated 1947, by the Esso Foundation for Palestine, they stated that "75 per cent of the Arab population of Palestine are either immigrants themselves or descendants of persons who immigrated into Palestine during the last hundred years, for the most part after 1882."

Jewish immigration was, however, very severely limited by the British White paper. As a consequence Jews were trapped in Europe and perished in the holocaust. Although as stated earlier, it is impossible to give precise figures, we see that the vast majority of Arabs today living in Palestine are descended from those Arabs who settled within the last century.

What contribution did the Arabs living in Palestine throughout the ages make to the country? History books show that Palestine was never a centre of any significant Arab activity and was only considered to be a backwater of the Arab empire. The only city they built was Ramla. The land became devastated a fact testified to by, amongst others, Count Volney in 1785, Mark Twain in 1867 and the Palestine Royal Commission in 1913.

#### THE JEWISH PRESENCE

Coupled with the creation of a Palestinian Arab nation, the Arabs also claim that the Jews were absent from the land for nearly two thousand years and that in any case the modern Jews are not descendants of the ancient Jews!

Due to an ignorance of Jewish history, such absurd statements have been accepted by the World, both Jewish and non-Jewish. In fact, despite the difficulties, persecutions, massacres and expulsions, the Jews maintained a continuous presence in Eretz Israel throughout the generations. An illustrated book entitled "The Forgotten Generations" published in 1975 by the Israel Economist goes through each century for nearly two thousand years showing Jewish settlement and life in Israel during this period.

We shall give a few examples of Jewish events and achievements in Eretz Israel during the two millennia when the Arabs claimed Jews were simply not there.

The Sanhedrin, the 71-member judicial body of the Jewish people functioned for several centuries during the Roman occupation.

During the fifth century, the Jerusalem Talmud and several collections of Midrashim were compiled in Eretz Israel.

In the seventh century, the Jews were allowed to build a Synagogue in front of the entrance to the cave of Machpelah in Hebron, which was in use for over 400 years until the period of the Crusaders. This Synagogue is referred to in Jewish, Christian and Moslem sources.

During the tenth century, the system of vowel pointings in Hebrew grammar was evolved in Tiberias.

In 1099, the Jews almost single-handedly defended Haifa against the Crusaders, holding out in the besieged town for a whole month.

About 1100, there were Jewish Communities all over the country including Jerusalem, Tiberias, Ramla, Gaza, Rafah, Ashkelon, Jaffa and Hebron.

In 1267, the Rumban settled in Jerusalem and opened a Synagogue in what was to become known as the Jewish quarter of the Old City. One should also mention here, that it is a very common error to believe that Jewish dwellings were confined to the Jewish quarter. For centuries, Jews were living in the entire Old City. In fact in the Moslem quarter, there were twenty-two Synagogues.

In the 15th and 16th centuries, there were tens of thousands of Jews living in Safed and it was the centre for Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism). At this period Rabbi Joseph Caro compiled the Shulchan Aruch, the Code of Jewish Law, in this city. From here the Kabbalat Shabbat service originated. Jews developed a number of branches of trade, especially in grain, spices, cloth and dyeing, and a Hebrew printing press was also established.

Despite great difficulties, Jews maintained a community in Shechem and it was only disbanded after 1900.

The Jewish community in Eretz Israel was not static, but there was continual Aliyah, despite all the difficulties and dangers involved. For example, the poet Yehuda Halevi issued a call to the Jews to immigrate. In 1211, three hundred Rabbis from France and England immigrated in a group. In the early 19th century, disciples of both the Baal Shem Tov and the Vilna Gaon came on Aliyah. Names of places such as Mea Shearim, Nahlat Shiva, Petach Tiqva, Mikveh Yisrael are well known. Yet all this settlement was before the establishment of the official Zionist movement.

All this may be summed up by the words of James Parkes, the Christian scholar "(The Zionists) real title deeds were written by the.....heroic endurance of those who had maintained a Jewish presence in the land through the centuries, and in spite of every discouragement."

A study of Jewish prayers and Grace after Meals, both of which are recited several times a day, every day, would show that even Jews living in the Diaspora never forgot Eretz Israel. A few of the many examples will suffice. "And let our eyes behold thy return in mercy to Zion," "Rebuild Jerusalem, the Holy City, speedily in our days", ".....gather us from the four corners of the world," ".....lead us up in joy into our land and to plant us within our borders." On the annual fast on the 9th Av, which commemorates the destruction of the Temple, prayers are recited for the comforting of Zion and the rebuilding of Jerusalem. For thousands of years, where-ever Jews have been living in the world, Synagogues have been built facing Israel and Jews have prayed in this direction.

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### SECTION 3

#### JEWISH SETTLEMENT ON THE WEST BANK

Whenever a new Jewish Settlement is started on the West Bank, there is an immediate world outcry, "illegal Settlements", "contrary to fourth Geneva Convention." The vast majority of people are not conversant with international law and thus accept these statements at face value. However, as stated earlier (see Section 1, the international legal rights to Eretz Israel,) we see that Israel has a better title than anyone else to these areas. Hence such settlements do not contravene the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 nor the Hague Rules of 1907 and are therefore perfectly legal and do not violate international law.

A strict policy is observed by the Government of Israel and the settlers by which new settlements are established only on Government or public land, and no Arabs are dispossessed of their lands. Israel's ambassador to the United Nations recently stated in the General Assembly that to subscribe to the notion that a Jew cannot settle on land which he owns just because he is a Jew, is in fact subscribing to the Nazi Nuremberg laws.

Settlements on the West Bank are also needed for Israel's Security. At present, the vast majority of the Jews in Israel live on the pre-1967 narrow coastal strip, and a further large number in the very narrow Jerusalem corridor. Israel is fast becoming a narrow mass of concrete from Nahariya in the North to Ashdod in the South. Such concentrations are continually growing and are a particular security risk, especially in the atomic age. Settlements are required in the mountain regions of Judea and Samaria (West Bank), and these will act as a protection to the populous areas of the coastal strip and the Jerusalem corridor. (Settlements in the Negov and Galilee might spread the concentrations but would not act as a protection to the coastal strip and Jerusalem corridor).

The suggestion that it is the setting up of settlements in the West Bank which causes trouble with the Arabs, is factually incorrect. About two years ago, when the Government of Israel announced its plans for Jewish settlement in the Galilee, (which was within pre-1967 Israel), there were massive Arab riots. The truth is that the only place the Arabs want Jewish settlement is the sea and maybe even then they will say that it is a Zionist plot to take over the oceans!

The argument that Jews should not settle in areas full of Arabs, shows an ignorance of modern Zionist history and the Chalutzic spirit of the pioneers. A few examples will illustrate this point.

In the 19th century, Chalutzim settled in Jaffa, a city full of Arabs and in 1909 settled north of the city. From this Settlement has grown the Tel-Aviv metropolis.

In 1948, there was a negligible Jewish population in Beersheba. Yet this did not deter the State of Israel from building up Jewish Settlements and today Beersheba is one of Israel's largest cities.

Nazareth is a wholly Arab populated city. However, within the last twenty years, the Jewish development town of Nazareth Illit has been built right next to it.



Today we have the greatest admiration for the pioneers who settled in the above places and created a Jewish presence there. Surely today's pioneers who are prepared to put up with great hardships similarly deserve admiration.

Jews live in London, New York, Moscow, Cairo, Damascus, Tel-Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem. Why then should they be barred from living on the West Bank?

In the United States, you will find places named Bethlehem, Hebron and Shiloh. Could you imagine the reaction if Jews were barred from living in any of these places? There would follow speeches in the Congress, cases in the Supreme Court, invocations of the Constitution, charges of discrimination. Why then should Jews not be allowed to live in the original Bethlehem, the original Hebron and the original Shiloh (all of which are situated on the West Bank)?

Arabs live in all parts of Eretz Israel. Why then should Jews be prevented from doing so? One may try and argue that such settlements are an obstacle to peace. No Jewish settlements could be set up on the West Bank between 1948 and 1967, yet in all this time, the Arabs never spoke about peace. In fact, if the Arabs want a genuine peace, why should such settlements be an obstacle?

#### "Right-Wing Fanatics"

A report in the mass media of a new settlement is invariably accompanied by the expression "right-wing fanatics". In fact, if the editors and newsmen who compile these reports did some research, they would learn that these settlers cut completely across party lines. People from all walks of life - right-wing, left-wing, (even the extreme left Hashomer Hatzair) religious and non-religious will be found amongst the settlers.

During Pesach 1976, there was a rally at the Moshav Ein Vered at which 1000 "Labouring Settlement Activists for Judea and Samaria" from the various Kibbutz and Moshav movements participated. When the Kaddun Settlers moved from their tents into caravans, 500 kibbutzniks and moshavniks from all over the country came to the "housewarming party".

A public opinion survey taken a few years ago by the Institute of Applied Social Research of the Hebrew University showed that "a majority of the population is of the opinion that the Settlement in Judea and Samaria must be increased, and two-thirds even go as far as to agree with the proposal that Israel should declare immediately that Judea and Samaria are a part of the State of Israel."

All this clearly shows that Settlement in the West Bank is not synonymous with "right-wing fanatics". Settlement has in fact brought together Israelis from completely different segments of the population to work together on a common cause, namely the building up and settling of the Land of Israel. Israelis from all walks of life are donating money and materials to these Settlements, Kibbutzniks are giving up a week of their holiday to help with construction work, people are coming from the towns one night each week to help with guard duty. With today's fragmentation of Israeli society, this co-operation in itself is a wonderful thing, and can go a long way towards settling the country's social and economic problems and increasing Aliyah.

SECTION 4

A PALESTINIAN STATE

(i) One State over whole of Palestine

We are continually hearing about the setting up of a single democratic secular state over the whole of Palestine where Moslems, Christians and Jews will be equal. Some people naively believe that this will solve all the problems. Let us therefore look at this idea more carefully.

Are we to understand the words "democratic", "secular" "equal" to have the same meaning as in Western Society? In fact, the principle points emerging from a discussion on this matter by representatives of the PLO in Beirut in March 1970 and published in the Lebanese newspaper Al-Anwar were (i) "A democratic, secular state" is merely a slogan used for tactical purposes, (ii) Most of the Jews in the new State would have to return to their countries of origin (iii) the intention is to found an Arab state and not a binational one, and (iv) "Democratic" does not refer to Western-European style democracy.

These four points are in complete conformity with the Palestinian National Covenant which was first written in 1964 and then revised in 1968. Contained in the Covenant, consisting of 33 articles, are the principles that the Balfour declaration and Mandate document are considered null and void; the country must be purged of the Zionist presence; only Jews living permanently in Palestine before 1917 will be recognised as citizens; the entire country belongs to the Palestine Arabs and that any solution that does not involve total liberation of the country is rejected.

Furthermore when we look at the Arab world, we see that not one Arab country can be called democratic and that the constitutions of all the Arab countries (except Lebanon) state that Islam is the religion of the State. We also shudder at the way the Arab countries treat their minorities - the Maronite Christians of Lebanon, the Copts of Egypt, the Kurds of Syria and Iraq, the Blacks of Sudan and the Jews in the various Arab countries. These minorities have suffered massacres, beatings, confiscations, slavery and desecrations of their holy places by the hands of their Arab majorities. Can we seriously believe that in such a Palestinian State, Moslems, Christians and Jews will be treated as equal?

(ii) State on West Bank and Gaza Strip

The idea of setting up a Palestinian State just on the West Bank and Gaza Strip is gaining prominence today. One's immediate reaction is to ask why the Arabs did not set up such a state between 1948 and 1967 when these territories were in their hands.

A Palestinian State on the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be a serious danger to Israel's security, and also to the Western world. The Soviet Union would look on such a West Bank State as a base for its Middle East designs and it would soon be full of Soviet weapons breathing down the neck of Israel's densely populated coastal strip. Intelligence sources have reported the training of PLO cadres in Moscow for several years.

The suggestion that such a State should be demilitarised is untenable. Like any other country in the world, a Palestinian State would demand complete autonomy in military matters. The weapons the Soviets would supply would certainly include long-range heavy artillery which could destroy apartment houses in Israel's cities, and anti-aircraft missiles to attack passenger planes



arriving at and departing from Ben-Gurion (Tel) airport. We must remember that civilian aircraft are the PLO's favourite target !

The danger of such a Palestinian state to Israel is not just speculation, since PLO spokesmen have made it crystal clear that the setting up of a Palestinian State on the West Bank and Gaza Strip would only be the first stage in the "establishment of a single democratic state over the whole of Palestine." There have been occasions when PLO spokesmen have stated to western newsmen that they would be satisfied with a State just on the West Bank and Gaza Strip but such statements are immediately refuted by those higher up in the PLO hierarchy.

The PLO was founded in 1964 when the West Bank and Gaza Strip were in Arab hands. What then does the "L" in PLO refer to ? What needed liberating in 1964? It can only refer to pre-1967 Israel and the reason for the formation of the PLO is thus self-evident.

#### World Opinion

Recently the U.S.A. and the E.E.C. countries have been talking about the Palestinian Arabs being given self-determination and being allowed to have a Palestinian Arab State in Eretz Israel. When, however, we study the practices of these very same Western States, we find that they will not allow self-determination involving parts of their own countries. A partial list of examples from Western democracies would include, U.S.A. and the Red Indians; and the Blacks, and the Puerto Ricans; Britain and the Scots, and the Welsh; Canada and the French of Quebec; France and the inhabitants of Brittany; Italy and the inhabitants of Sardinia; Spain and the Basques. There are also numerous examples from the Communist and Third World Countries.

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### SECTION 5

#### UNITED NATIONS "GUARANTEES"

Israel is continually being urged by her "friends" to return to the pre-1967 borders with a U.N. guarantee of her security. The best guide to the effectiveness and reliability of such U.N. guarantees is to look at the U.N.'s record in relation to Israel. In 1957, after the Sinai campaign, Israel's agreement to withdraw from Sinai and Gaza was conditional upon U.N. forces being stationed in Gaza to prevent terrorism and at Sharm el-Sheikh to keep the straits of Tiran open to Israeli shipping. Despite this, when Nasser insisted in May, 1967 that this U.N. force be removed, the Secretary General U Thant, without any consultations, immediately complied precipitating the Six Day War. Thus when the noose was being tightened around Israel in May 1967 and she most needed the U.N. guarantees and protection, they just disappeared. Another example is that whilst the Arabs were advancing during the first few days after their surprise attack in the Yom Kippur war of 1973, the U.N. was silent. Only when Israel was about to destroy the Arab armies did the U.N. wake up and call for an immediate ceasefire.

Can the U.N. be regarded as impartial and objective or has it got a bias against Israel? If one looks at the composition of the Security Council, there are always a number of members on it who are hostile to Israel and have no diplomatic relations with her. This includes two of the five permanent members - Soviet Union and Communist China. Any one of the five permanent members can veto a resolution. One only has to look at the Security Council's record to see that any resolution criticising the Arabs, however justifiably, will be vetoed by the Soviet Union, whereas almost any anti-Israel resolution will be passed. The Security Council is thus unable to be a constructive factor in the affairs of the Middle East.

The General Assembly also has a built in anti-Israel majority, consisting of the Arabs, Soviet Bloc and many Third World States. There is also a strong and growing tendency among countries who are reasonably friendly towards Israel to abstain from voting in her favour in order not to offend the oil-rich Arab States. Any anti-Israel resolution, however absurd, is guaranteed to be passed. In 1975, by a majority of 72 to 35 with 32 abstentions, the General Assembly adopted a resolution labelling Zionism as a form of "racism and racial discrimination". If the Arabs were to propose that the "earth was flat" or that the "moon is made of green cheese", one can be sure that the General Assembly would pass such resolutions with similar majorities! However, in matters of world importance such as Arab terrorism and hijacking of civilian aircraft, the U.N. has done nothing.

Even in the humanitarian and specialised affiliates of the U.N. such as UNESCO and WHO, the pro-Arab block has managed to pass anti-Israel resolutions.

Another result of this anti-Israel majority in the U.N. was that in November, 1974, Yasir Arafat, the leader of the P.L.O., an organisation whose covenant speaks of the destruction of a member state of the U.N., namely Israel, was invited by the same U.N. to address its General Assembly. He was even given a standing ovation by almost all the U.N. members.

Can one blame Israel for refusing to put her trust in U.N. guarantees regarding her security?

#### Great Power Guarantees

If Israel feels that she cannot put her security needs in the hands of the United Nations, what about her putting her reliance in the Great Powers such as the United States.

In answer to this, let us first remember that countries act in their own interests. In 1948, it was in the Soviet Union's interest to support Israel - they consistently supported the partition plan, they were the first country to recognize Israel de jure, they supplied arms for the War of Independence and they gave Israel support in the Security Council. It is now in the Soviet Union's interest to be anti-Israel and so she is. Furthermore, the Soviet Union will tear up any commitments when it suits her to do so.

What about U.S.A. "cast-iron" guarantees". The point is, when it comes to the test, that the United States will not get militarily involved, after her experience in Vietnam. The U.S.A. constitution requires a two-thirds approval of the Senate for military involvement and such approval would not be passed by the Senate. Furthermore, the U.S.A. will in the coming years be more dependent on Arab oil. Any American voices advocating coming to Israel's assistance at her time of need, would soon be silenced by oil pressure.

The "cast-iron" in such guarantees would on testing be found to be very brittle indeed!

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### SECTION 6

#### THE ARAB REFUGEES

From the outset, we can say that had the Arabs not started a War against Israel in late 1947 and 1948, there would have been no Arab refugees. Despite appeals for peace from the Jewish community in Palestine, the Arabs began their assault on the Jews in November 1947, and when the State of Israel was declared on May 14th 1948 the infant State was invaded by the forces of seven Arab countries.

There is ample evidence which shows that the Arab leaders told their brethren to leave Palestine, promising them that they would soon return to inherit the Jewish property. One only has to look at the evidence to see that the exodus was the responsibility of the Arabs themselves. This includes Arab spokesmen, Arab newspapers, Arab radio broadcasts and independent reports. (A selection is listed at the end of this section.)

The Arabs for their part claim that they were driven out by the Jews. When it comes to producing actual evidence, however, the best the Arabs can do is to quote a highly coloured report of a battle at the Arab Village of Deir Yassin near Jerusalem and say that this battle caused the Arabs to panic and flee. In fact it was the imaginative account put out by the Arabs on this Deir Yassin battle which caused some Arabs to panic and leave. (Since the Arabs are continually quoting Deir Yassin, a summary of what happened is given at the end of this section.) The transfer of blame to the Jews for causing the Arab refugee problem only began in the late 1950's when the Arabs decided that it could be a powerful propaganda weapon against Israel. They therefore used their famous tactic of rewriting history in order to put the blame for the refugees on to Israel.

Since the Arabs want to use the refugees as a propaganda weapon against Israel, it is in their interest to grossly inflate their numbers. This has been helped by the fact that there were a large number of poor Arabs who were not refugees but took advantage of the situation to register with UNWRA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees). Were the non-refugees to be struck off the lists, the number of UNWRA employees (who number about 50,000) would be decreased and therefore it is in the employees own interest to go along with this inflation of numbers. An UNWRA Director has stated that births are always registered but deaths are usually concealed. Refugee ration cards are valued as currency.

The use of these refugees as a political weapon by the Arabs against Israel is confirmed by the fact that the Arabs block all proposals to resettle them. Israel, on the other hand, has put forward a number of offers to solve this problem. Despite their oil wealth, the contributions of the Arab States to UNWRA has been pitiful and with the exception of Saudi Arabia, Israel's contribution (from 1950 to 1975) exceeded all the Arab states. The Egyptians treated the refugees on the Gaza Strip without any concern or compassion and the camps were like jails.

The Arabs want these refugees to be allowed to return to Israel. It must be remembered, however, that for decades these Arab refugees have been indoctrinated with a hate for Israel. Even some of the textbooks supplied to the teachers by UNESCO from UNWRA funds contain virulent anti-Israel and anti-Jewish propaganda. A return to Israel of these refugees would produce, a large fifth-column in Israel's midst which would endanger Israel's very existence. Nasser, himself, said "If the refugees return to Israel, - Israel will cease to exist".



The Arab refugees have not been the only refugees in the world. Since the second world war there have been 40 million refugees throughout the world; Koreans, Vietnamese, Germans, Indians, Pakistanis, Chinese, Finns and Jews. In every case, resettlement in their host countries and not repatriation proved to be the answer. Only in the case of the Arab refugees do the Arabs demand repatriation. In Israel despite the fact that the Arabs have ample money and room to resettle these Arab refugees. In addition, the Arab refugees are closely akin to the Arabs of the host countries in language, religion and social background.

When in November 1976, Israel took the initiative and moved some of the Arab refugees from the Gaza Strip, into houses, the United Nations passed a resolution to return these refugees to the camps! The reason for this apparently strange conduct is that if the refugee problem were to be solved, then the trump card against Israel would immediately disappear.

Whilst on the subject of refugees, one should mention that Israel has accepted nearly 750,000 Jewish refugees from Arab countries, a number which exceeds all the Arab refugees. Almost all these Jews left because of the massacres, riots, pogroms and discrimination waged against them and all their assets and property was often confiscated. However, as soon as they arrived in Israel, they became citizens and despite Israel's serious financial problems, they were housed, given medical treatment, educated and employed. The few Jews still living in Arab countries, such as Syria, live in a continual state of terror.

#### Deir Yassin - the Facts

- (1) Deir Yassin was one of the two villages blocking the route to Jerusalem which was under siege, by the Arabs, thus preventing food and water reaching Jerusalem's large Jewish civilian population.
- (2) Jewish Irgun drove up with loud-speakers calling upon inhabitants to evacuate the village, (this fact was even confirmed by a pamphlet issued by Secretariat-General of Arab League), thus throwing away element of surprise. 200 villagers who evacuated were not harmed.
- (3) White flags were extended from windows but when advance party entered village it was met by a hail of bullets. It had been an Arab ambush. Fierce hand to hand fighting followed and the stone houses could only be taken with grenades.
- (4) When fighting ended it was found that about 250 civilians had been killed. Either they had been held hostages by the Arab soldiers or had sought protection with them instead of evacuating. The statement by a prominent Arab of Deir Yassin that the Jews never intended to hurt the population of the village was published in the Jordanian daily Al Urdun.
- (5) The "colourful Arab accounts" of this incident gained considerable weight by virtue of the fact that in 1948, Ben-Gurion and his followers wanted to blacken the Irgun and hence helped the Arab story along.

Arab and independent sources which show that the Arabs themselves were responsible for the Arab refugee problem.

- (a) Arab spokesmen
  - (i) Jamal Husseini, Acting Chairman of Palestine Arab Higher Committee to United Nations Security Council, April 23 1948.
  - (2) Arab National Committee in Haifa - memorandum to governments of Arab League, April 27 1948.
  - (3) Monsignor George Hakim, Greek Catholic Bishop of Galilee - reported in Beirut newspaper Sada al Janub. August 16 - 1948.



- (4) Emil Ghoury, Secretary of the Arab High Committee - interview with Beirut Telegraph. September 6, 1948.
  - (5) Habib Issa, Secretary General of Arab League - in New York Lebanese newspaper Al Hoda. June 8, 1951.
  - (6) Arab High Committee in memorandum to Arab League States, Cairo, 1952.
  - (7) Hinn el Hawari, Commander of Palestine Arab Youth Organisation quoting Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri Said - in book Sir Al Hakbah, published in Nazareth 1952.
  - (8) Edward Atiyah, Secretary of Arab League Office in London - in book The Arabs, p 183, published in London 1955.
  - (9) Salin Joubran, Arab citizen of Israel, to American audiences. February 1962.
  - (10) Haled al Azn, Prime Minister of Syria in 1948 and 1949. The Memoirs of Haled al Azn. Part I pp 386-7. Beirut 1973.
  - (11) Abu Mazen - published in Falastin el Thawa, official journal of PLO. Beirut March 1976.
- (b) Independent Newspapers and Reports.
- (1) U.S. State Department dispatches of April 26, 1948.
  - (2) The Times, London, May 5, 1948.
  - (3) Economist October 2, 1948.
  - (4) Soviet Delegate at U.N. Security Council. March 4, 1949.
  - (5) New Star in the New East by Kenneth Bilby pp30-31 published in New York 1950.
  - (6) Bulletin of The Research Group for European Migration Problems. January-March 1957.
- (c) Arab Newspapers
- (1) Ash Sha'ab, Jaffa. January 30, 1948.
  - (2) As Sarih, Jaffa. March 30, 1948.
  - (3) Falastin. Jordan February 19, 1949.
  - (4) Al Urdun. Jordan. April 9, 1953.
  - (5) Ad Difaa, Jordan September 6, 1954.
- (d) Radio
- Near East Arabic Broadcasting Station. Cyprus. April 3, 1948.

## HOW TO ANSWER ANTI-ISRAEL PROPAGANDA

Addenda January 1978

SECTION 1 Page 2 (iii) The security approach.

ADD After 1st paragraph (i.e. after .... from the Mediterranean Sea).

From the point of view of topographical defensibility, it is difficult to draw a worse line than the pre-1967 line separating Israel and Jordan. Conversely, there could not be a better boundary line than the Jordan river since on the western side are the Judean and Samarian hills which act as a protection to Israel.

SECTION 4 Page 2

ADD after 2nd line (i.e. after .... PLO's favourite target).

A Palestinian State would obviously have its own airports and its own seaport at Gaza. Without permanent and reliable inspection of cargoes at these ports, what would prevent the progressive smuggling of arms which could then be stockpiled in preparation for a general offensive? It is obvious that a Palestinian State would refuse to allow another State (i.e. Israel) to inspect all cargoes arriving at its ports.

ADD after 5th Paragraph (the after ..... were like jails)

Whilst Arabs are living in refugee camps, their wealthy Arab brethren are buying hotels in London and choice real estate in America or squandering petrodollars in the gambling centres of the world. A single day's production of oil in the Arab States yields enough money to settle the whole Arab refugee problem. Instead of the Arabs striking and making demonstrations on Balfour Day or Israel Independence Day, let them devote all monies arising from <sup>sales of</sup> oil on just one of these days to resettling the refugees. Then their oft-spoken "concern" for these refugees might carry some conviction.

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