

the facts

ABOUT THE PALESTINE PROBLEM

A monthly bulletin produced by «The Arab Women's Information Committee».
P. O. Box 320 - Beirut, Lebanon - Vol. I No. 7 - October 1968

THE BACKGROUND

A NEW SUPERIOR RACE — *Some Zionist Declarations on the Subject.* In 1955, Rowen Barakat, the political secretary to the Histadrut, stated : «We are thinking of a pure Jewish State with no minorities».

(Bulletin of the Republic of Israel, Vol. VI, Jan. — Feb. 1965)

An American Jew, Professor Cohen, said : «Zionists fundamentally accept the racial ideology of the Anti-Semites, but draw different conclusions. Instead of the Teutons, it is the Jew that is the purer or superior race. All sorts of virtues, idealism, etc. are the characteristic qualities of its spirit. Only in Palestine can this spirit find root, and only in the Hebrew language its adequate expressions.»

(The Decadence of Judaism in Our Time by Moshe Menuhin, p. 308)

«Israel wants... a state inextricably linked with Jews throughout the world in a relationship of material assistance and common destiny. Israel's «most basic laws» reflect this Zionist messianism which

Editor's note :

This is not a magazine, nor even a newsletter. No attempt will be made at long-winded analysis or description. It is literally a «factual» sheet.

FACTS will try to present the facts of the Palestine Problem. We think these will speak for themselves and need no comment or elaboration. It is this ignorance of the facts by the outside world that has been responsible for much of the human suffering that has taken place in Palestine. It is time that the facts were known. Only on their basis can disinterested and fair-minded people reach objective and intelligent conclusions. To help such people is our objective.

FACTS is produced by the Arab Women's Information Committee, a voluntary, non-professional, non-profit and private organization of Arab women living in Beirut, Lebanon, who have been appalled at the manner in which the Palestine Problem has been presented so far in the English-speaking press.

FACTS will be divided into two sections, the first dealing with background material, the second with current developments. It will appear on a monthly basis. We also hope to be able to publish supplements on specific issues as the occasion arises.

The background section will comprise quotations from Zionist writings to illustrate Zionist ideological and strategic thought, statistics pertaining to various aspects of the Palestine Problem, and summaries of the more important historical events and developments of the problem.

The selection of this material is necessarily arbitrary, but it is hoped that as much ground can be covered in successive issues of **FACTS** as space permits.

As to the section on current developments, it will focus attention on the developments that have taken place since 5 June 1967.

We shall endeavour throughout to give detailed references for all the material that we publish. We hope that our efforts will contribute, however modestly, to a better understanding of the Arab point of view on the Palestine Problem.

FACTS welcomes all comments, suggestions and inquiries by its readers.

historically is Zionism's (and Israel's) *raison d'être*... this messianism is a product of anti-semitism fashioned and shaped in the European ghetto, dating from the medieval period.»

(«Israel Divided» by Benjamin Matovu in Issues, Summer 1965, Vol. 19, p. 27)

Herzlian Foresight

Sometime before his conversion to Zionism, Theodore Herzl wrote : «And if the Jews really returned Home one day, they would discover on the next that they do not belong together. For centuries they have been rooted in diverse nationalisms, they differ from each other group by group; the only thing they have in common is the pressure which holds them together».

(The Organization of the Jewish State by Michael Selzer, N.Y. 1967, pp. 53-54)

A Sense of History

1. In 1948 Mr. Ben Gurion said :

«Take the American Declaration of Independence for instance... It contains no mention of the territorial limits. We are not obliged to state the limits of our State. The Arabs are making war on us. If we beat them, the western part of Galilee and the territory on both sides of the road to Jerusalem will become part of the State. If only we have the strength.. Why tie ourselves down ?» Ben Gurion had no intention of keeping to the territorial limits for the Jewish State laid down by the United Nations. He was sure that opportunities for increasing the territory would occur, and that Israel would eventually attain the initial aims, even if it took centuries... Some people would say these hidden intentions smacked of imperialism, but others have called it a sense of history» !

(The Armed Prophet, a Biography of Ben Gurion by Michael Bar-Zohar, p. 133)

2. Mr. Herzl said of his negotiations with the German Chancellor that : «He asked what territory we wanted to have, whether as far north as Beirut or even beyond that.

I said : We will ask for what we need — the more immigrants, the more land.»

(The Complete Diaries of Theodore Herzl, Vol. II, p. 701)

Statements by non-Zionists

In 1923, Lord Grey said: «A Zionist Home.. undoubtedly means or implies a Zionist Government over the district in which the house is placed, and if ninety-three percent of the population of Palestine are Arabs, I do not see how you can establish other than an Arab Government without prejudice to their civil rights.»

(Crossroads to Israel by Christopher Sykes, p. 95)

«Jewish tenure to Palestine, in any real sense of the word «Palestine», was never complete and it only lasted continuously, within its limits, for seventy years. It lasted, this vaunted possession, for no longer than the lifetime of one man, and that was three thousand years ago... If we turn then, bearing all this in mind, to compare the Arab historic situation there, what a contrast between the two there is. The Arab possession began 5,000 years ago and has never ceased.»

(Josephus and the Jews by Dr. Foakes Jackson, quoted in Palestine, the Reality by J.M.N. Jeffries, pp. 11-12)

The well-known Jewish scholar, Dr. Elmer Berger, wrote that «Orthodox Jews do indeed believe in 'The Return to Zion'», but that the phrase has a wide variety of meanings, «none of which has been fulfilled in the establishment of the State of Israel.» Dr. Berger also said that Israel «came about, not through the fulfilment of the word of God, but as a result of the secular-political activities of Zionism».

(Palestine and the Bible. A collection of essays published by The Institute for Palestine Studies, Beirut)

Senator Ralph E. Flanders, in a speech in the Senate on the Arab-Israeli problem, said : «Mr. President, I am pro-Semitic; but, if they successfully persist in their present plans for an ingathering of the Jews of the world into an area too small to contain them; if they continue to ignore the injustice to the Arab landowners which are involved in their actions and policies so far; and if for the future they apply super heat to the pot already boiling in the Middle East, such a wave of anti-semitism as the Jewish race has never faced, will sweep not only this country, but the whole world. As a personal friend of hundreds of Jews; as an admirer and lover of the Jewish race, fully appreciative of its surpassing contributions to civilization in commerce, in philosophy, in literature, and in arts, I beg the Jewish people that they do not destroy themselves.»

(The Decadence of Judaism in our Time by Moshe Menuhin, p. 224)

Statistics

From a letter by Idriss Cox to the Guardian, 1 June 1967.

Arabs in Israel : 11% of the population of the State

Arabs employed in the professions : 3%

Arabs employed in government : 2.5%

Arab Judges : 1 only

Arab Students : 2.9%

Arab University Students : 0.15%

70 out of 112 Arab villages have no elected councils and are under military control.

50% of the Arab population live in houses with no electricity.

2.5% of the housing budget only is allocated to Arabs.

(Based on Israeli Government figures).

The Arabs under Israeli Rule

Pinhas Lavon, (ex-Minister of Defence), questioned about a particularly brutal act in an Arab village, scornfully said : «There's no need to get upset — there was no fine mahogany furniture in the village.»

(*The Armed Prophet by Michael Bar-Zohar, p. 190*)

«He (Ben-Gurion), had no hesitations over ordering the destruction of their (the Arabs) villages and the turning back of the trickle of refugees trying to return to their homes when the fighting had ceased...

In Ben-Gurion's world, in his State, there was no place for Arabs». (*Ibid, p. 172*)

As for the refugees, Ben-Gurion was quite emphatic : «We must do everything to ensure that they never do return.»

(*Ibid, p. 157*)

«For twenty years the Palestinian Arabs have first been uprooted and then ill-treated and dispossessed. They have been deprived of man's most precious right — Liberty.»

(*Cahier du Témoignage Chrétien Pour Un Juste Règlement du Problème Palestinien, Madeleine Trebous, p. 37*)

«I remind you that the law of return stipulates that all Jews, of all nationalities, can become Israeli citizens by law as soon as they decide to live in Israel. On the contrary an Arab born there is always a second-class citizen, and can lose his nationality if he absents himself temporarily.»

(*Ibid, p. 30, Fanny Schapira*)

«The Israeli authorities, however, placed Moslem religious affairs under the control of the Israeli Jewish Ministry of Religious Affairs and appointed an Israeli Jew to administer and control Waqf properties. This is not all — revenue accruing from Waqf property intended for religious and charitable purposes, is now collected by the Israeli authorities and channelled into general government revenue. »

(*Bitter Harvest by Sami Hadawi, p. 220*)

Ed. Note : *Waqf is a Moslem endowment for religious or charitable purposes.*

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

A TEMPORARY OCCUPATION ? - Or Could Israel be Expanding ?

On 1 May 1968, Mr. Eshkol said : «The war did not end» and declared that he was hopeful that «the U.S. Government will supply his country with the required planes».

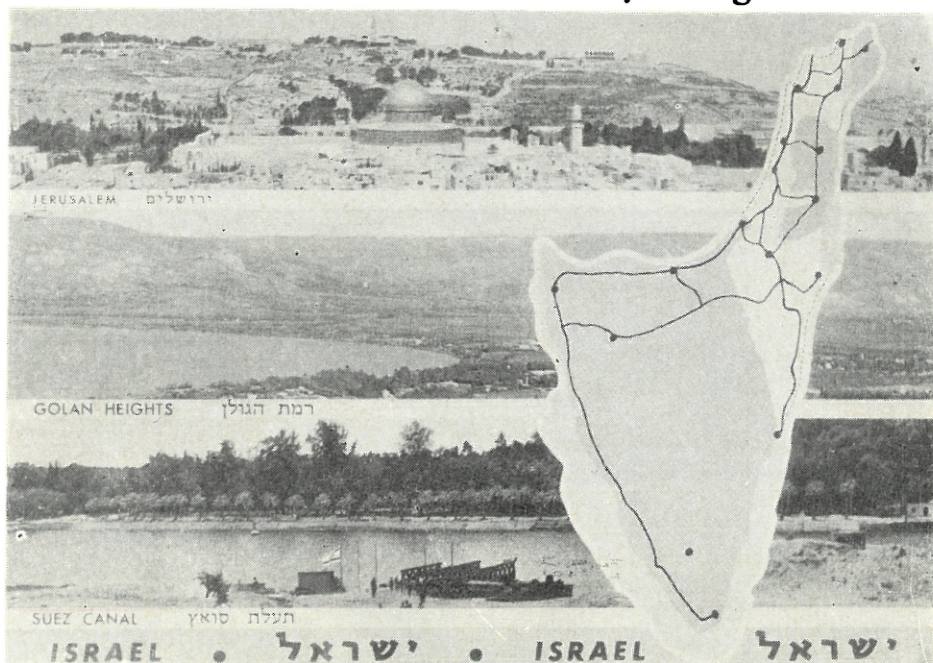
General Rabin, Israeli ambassador to Washington, said : «Israel will never abandon Jerusalem».

Mr. Ben Gurion said that «the Israeli people want to conquer new territories».

(A.F.P., 1 May 1968, *Le Jour*)

«Orders were also issued for another Nahal unit to move into the Baniyas area outside the Syrian border on the slopes of the Golan Heights and within shouting distance of the main source of the Jordan River.

While the Israelis were at pains to explain that these moves were not deliberately timed to nudge the



A postcard sold in Israel showing Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and the Suez Canal as Part of Israel

Arabs, one highly placed Israeli source said : «If they want to believe these are permanent steps

towards occupying territory, let them».

(New York Times, 1 October 1967)

The Unabashed Expansionism of General Dayan

In a press conference in Gaza, Moshe Dayan declared that Israel intended to add both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to its territory.

(A.F.P., 6 July 1967, *L'Orient*)

Defence Minister Moshe Dayan said today that Israel could not maintain her security if she gave up all of the territory she conquered in June.

(New York Times, 11 August 1967)

In an interview published in the Rosh Hashana issue of *Bamahani*, the Army Magazine, Mr. Moshe Dayan declared that : «Israel's borders, with the exception of that with Lebanon, were ideal, though not necessarily realistic».

(The Jewish Chronicle, 6 October 1967)

Dayan said to a gathering of Defence Ministry personnel that «there would never be a return to the frontier which existed before the six day war».

(The Jewish Chronicle, 19 January 1968)

General Dayan, talking about the necessity of settling more Jews in the «Land of Israel», argued that : «The struggle in which we are nowadays involved is that of reconstituting the Historical Israel. It is not only a military fight, but also a struggle that involves and concerns the whole Jewish people and would determine our future».

(A.F.P., 7 July 1968, *L'Orient*)

Ed. Note With reference to Dayan's phrase 'Historical Israel' see our pamphlet, From the Nile to the Euphrates.

And of Mr. Eshkol

Mr. Levi Eshkol declared at a meeting organized by 'Hadasah' :

«The Jordan River is the natural frontier of the Israeli State».

(*L'Humanité*, 16 February 1968)

Levi Eshkol, at a press conference : «It is impossible for Israel to return to the pre-war condition that had threatened her existence».

(New York Times, 4 September 1967)

Mr. Levi Eshkol, the Israeli Prime Minister, in a broadcast interview, rejected any possibility of return to the pre-June War boundaries. He said : «The Jordan River should be the security frontier of Israel. As to its political boundaries, they

should take into consideration the historical bonds that may tie Israel to these places and the concentration of the Arab population in these areas».

(A.F.P., 22 June 1968, L'Orient)

Mr. Levi Eshkol, Prime Minister of Israel, declared yesterday in front of the Congress of the Mapai Party that the Gaza Strip would not be returned to Egypt, neither would Cisjordania become once more «A hammer» for the Arab guerillas based in Jordan. He affirmed that Israel would not give up its rights over Jerusalem, its capital.

(Le Monde, 29 June 1968)

Premier Levi Eshkol told the Knesset last week that repatriating the Arab refugees would be unacceptable, for that would mean placing a time-bomb under their security.

(Herald Tribune, 12 August 1968)

THE BIG LIE - Israel & human rights

The communiqué of the Jewish World Congress says «In adopting administrative measures openly directed against the Jewish minorities, certain Arab countries have revived the Nazi doctrine which gives each government the freedom to act towards any fraction of its citizens without being pre-occupied by the rights of man.»

(Le Monde, 9 August 1968)

BUT U THANT IS SURPRISED

U Thant, the U.N. Secretary-General, declared that his delegate had failed to carry out his investigations on the Humanitarian problems of the Middle East caused by the June War. This failure, he added «is due to the conditions imposed by Israel». He went on to say that the main obstacle Israel had created was that of requiring a similar investigation to be car-

ried out about the conditions of the Jews in Lebanon and Iraq

U Thant declared : «I have never heard from any source whatsoever any complaint from the Lebanese-Jewish community». The letters dealing with the question were to be published «so that everybody could know that the main difficulties come from the Israeli attempt to widen the scope of the humanitarian mission of Mr. Jarring».

(A.P., 3 August 1968, L'Orient)

The Simple Lie

«Israel went to war in June 1967 with the declared aim of achieving peace and security and not for territorial conquests».

(Mutual Understanding Will Win Peace
by Aharon Cohen in The Jewish
Quarterly, Autumn 1967, p. 5).

THE HOPEFUL LIE OR A NEW LOOK AT THE 4th GENEVA CONVENTION

During the weekly meeting of the Israeli Cabinet, General Dayan declared that the blowing up of houses is not prohibited by the Geneva Convention.

(Le Monde, 12 March 1968)

«Any destruction by the Occupying Power of movable or immovable property belonging

individually or collectively to private persons or to the State or to other public authorities, or to social or cooperative organizations, is prohibited except where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations».

(4th Geneva Convention, Article 53)



Qalquilya 1967

Anti-Semitism as a Zionist Necessity

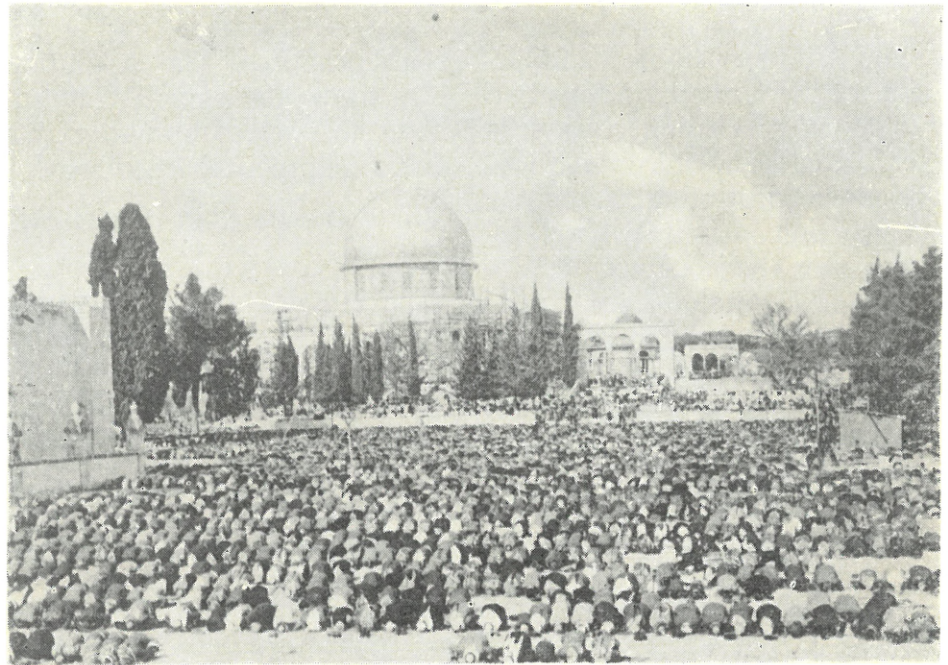
In a letter to the *Times*, Mr. Avtandi Rukhadze says : «Those Jews who wanted to go out of the USSR were granted the permission to leave, which was the most convincing proof of absence of anti-semitism in the Soviet Union. Besides, many of the Jews who left the Soviet Union in 1966 and 1967 are again applying to Soviet authorities, but this time for permission to return to the USSR. The interesting thing is that among the persons who want to return to the Soviet Union is Yefin Mayur, an announcer of Kol Israel Radio station, the same man who during many a programme for Soviet listeners spoke about the Jewish Heaven in the 'Promised Land'».

(The Times, 11 June 1968)

«Statistically Jews have a better chance for a «good life» in the Soviet Union than most other groups. Though the 3 million Soviet Jews comprise 1.5% of the population, Jews make up 14.7% of doctors, 10.4% of judges and lawyers, 8.5% of writers, 7.7% of musicians and artists. Nearly 20% of Jews have University or technical education».

(«Jews in the Soviet Union» by Peter Worthington in *Issues*, Autumn 1967)

JERUSALEM, The Holy City



If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its cunning.

«I want to drive the hucksters and the filth that dishonor Jerusalem out of that Holy City».

(Theodore Herzl in *The Complete Diaries*, Vol. III, p. 874)

«The changed character of East Jerusalem (Arab Jerusalem) is underlined by the fact that about 40 girls, mostly Israeli, were arrested during a recent police raid

directed against prostitution.

Juvenile delinquency among Arabs of both sexes has increased sharply since the Israeli occupation, with cases now averaging about 38 a month as against five to eight in former years.»

(The Observer, 8 September 1968)

The Pope «expressed great concern about safeguarding the religious character of the Holy City».

(L'Orient, 4 October 1968, A.F.P.)

«There has been a good deal of looting and wanton destruction by Israeli soldiers in the Jordan sector. One evening I watched soldiers smashing windows of the Palestine pottery shop opposite the Mandelbaum Gate and filching some of the best pieces».

(The Times, 10 June 1967)

According to a report in the Israeli newspaper *Letzte Nayeres* of Tel-Aviv (15 June 1959) «the Christian cemetery in Jerusalem was desecrated by vandals and forty-two crosses were destroyed». The newspaper described the incident as «shocking and as an act of barbarism».

(Jewish Newsletter, 29 June 1959)

In Beit Haninah, the Mary Lovel Institute for Blind Women was damaged by an Israeli explosion near by.

(Reuter, 3 July 1968, Al-Nahar)



On the 4th of August 1968 Israeli airforce and tanks attacked the town of Salt in Jordan 5 military and 23 civilians were killed, as well as 6 military and 76 civilians injured. (Al-Nahar, 5 August, 1968, all agencies.)

IS ISRAEL'S RECORD CLEAR ?

«The Human Rights Commission of the United Nations had voted in its closing session to send a cable to the Israeli Government protesting against the destruction of Arab civilians' houses in the occupied territories, and calling on Israel to desist forthwith from indulging in

such practices. The resolution also urges the Israeli Government to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms».

(Jewish Chronicle, 15 March 1968, p. 11)

«The Israelis are using against the Arab population the fami-

liar techniques of any occupying power : interrogation, deportation, imprisonment, destruction of houses. Against Jordan, artillery and aerial attacks. Against border-crossing commandos, mines, patrols and helicopters.»

(The Economist, 13 January 1968)

A Letter from the Editor

We are most anxious to hear from our student readers wherever they may be. We would like to hear whether Arab students abroad find support or hostility to their point of view and how «Facts» can help them. We would very much like to know what you think of 'Facts', whether you find it useful and if you have any suggestions for making it more helpful. And we would like to publish your letters, if you allow us to, in this space. We want to make the Arab point of view as effectively expressed as the Zionist point of view -- please help us to do this.

Please order your Christmas cards, in aid of Arabs in occupied territories from P. O. Box 320, Beirut, Lebanon.