

## 1. WHAT IS MEANT BY THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE?

It is a quarrel between Palestinian Arabs and Zionist Jews over the control of the former British Mandate territory of Palestine. The indigenous Palestinian Arabs, both Christian and Moslem, claim it as being their rightful home for hundreds of years. The Zionist Jews claim their right on Biblical grounds and the need of a home free of the threat of anti-semitism for the cultural growth of the Jewish People.

## 2. IS ANTI-SEMITISM A FACTOR IN THIS DISPUTE?

Correctly speaking, both Jews and Arabs are Semitic peoples but in recent years, the Western World tends to think of anti-Semitism as prejudice against Jews. To question Zionist claims to Palestine sometimes brings the accusation of being anti-Semitic.

## 3. DOES ANTI-SEMITISM HAVE AN HISTORICAL ORIGIN?

Traditionally the Semites were those people descended from the son of Noah named Shem ("Shemites," see Genesis 5:32; 9:18-19; 10). Technically, however, the name has applied to those languages which historically sprang from the proto-Arabic tongue of the Arabian peninsula; e.g., Assyrian, Babylonian, Canaanite, Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac, Arabic, etc. Peoples associated with these languages have been known as "Semites."

## 4. WHY IS THE TERM USUALLY APPLIED TO JEWS?

During the 19th century, the only "Semitic" speaking people in Europe were gathered in the Jewish communities. From early biblical times the Orthodox Jews considered themselves as a "Covenanted" people "Chosen" by God for a special destiny. When Christianity sprang from the ranks of Judaism in the first century, severe ideological clashes occurred that have resulted in hostility between Christians and Jews. In predominantly Christian Europe this hostility has periodically erupted in discrimination against Jews. With the rise of European nationalism, this Jewish sense of "Separateness" increased, resulting in vicious attacks upon Jews, especially in Russia after 1881. The expression "anti-Semitism" thus came to mean "anti-Jewishness." See, Elmer Berger, *A Partisan History of Judaism* (Devin-Adair, 1951), for a concise treatment of Judaism.

## 5. IS ANTI-SEMITISM A SERIOUS PROBLEM TODAY?

It became tragic at the time of Adolf Hitler. He was the Great High Priest of anti-Semitism, creating its opposite, a deep sense of guilt on the part of Christians and a desire to help Jews and give them equal rights.

## 6. IS ANYONE WHO CRITICIZES ISRAEL ANTI-SEMITIC?

Since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, many prominent Jews have tried to identify Judaism, Zionism and the political State of Israel as synonymous. Hence, anyone who criticizes Israel, Zionism or Judaism is said to be "anti-Semitic." It has led to absurdities, even anti-Zionist Jews being called anti-Semitic.

## 7. ARE ARABS ANTI-SEMITIC?

Some few may be but Arabs oppose Israel on political and territorial issues and not in a religious sense. The word has lost much of its European 19th century meaning, but is used frequently to smear anyone who is critical of any phase of Israeli policies. Used in this way, it is no more than an effort to stop any intelligent or critical study of Israel.

## 8. WHO ARE THE ARABS?

Those whose mother tongue is Arabic are Arabs. The term has no racial religious, political or territorial meaning. Arabic speaking peoples may be Negroid, Iranian, Armenoid, Christian, Muslim,\* Jew and so forth. Arabic speaking peoples extend from Morocco in the west to Iran in the east. There are approximately 140 million people who use some dialect of Arabic as their home language. The Arab States are those in which a majority speak Arabic. (\* Also spelled Moslem.)

## 9. WHAT IS THE RELIGION OF THE ARABS?

Islam is the predominant religion of the Arabs — though a sizable minority are Christian. About half of the Lebanese population is Christian and before the partition of 1948, many Christians lived in Palestine. Some Christians — especially in and near Nazareth — reside in Israel today.

## 10. WHAT IS THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF PALESTINE?

About 1200 B. C. the people called Philistines, probably migrating from Crete, settled in a number of cities along the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea — Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon and others. As they expanded eastward, they clashed with desert invaders coming west, the Hebrews. Eventually under David, about 980 B. C., the Philistines were conquered by the Hebrews but the name Philistia survived in the Latin form of Palestine.

The League of Nations gave the term an official recognition in 1919 by granting to Great Britain, the Mandate for Palestine. In 1922 when friction arose between Zionists and Palestinians over territorial claims, the British, with League approval, split the Mandate into two areas: Trans-Jordan to remain purely Arab, and Palestine to the west of the Jordan River where Jews could settle among the Arabs.

Israelis do not like the term Palestine and revived the phrase from the Bible *Eretz Israel* (Land of Israel), whose boundaries remain unfixed, thus leaving wide open the question of Israel's future limits. Some Jewish Zionists on Biblical grounds claim more territory than Israel now occupies. This is the policy of the Greater Israel Party - GAHAL. See, Yeshayahu Ben Porat, *New Middle East*, Dec. 1972 (Magazine).

## 11. WHAT IS ZIONISM?

Zionism takes its name from Jewish tradition that Jehova, meaning God, resided in a temple on Mt. Zion, a part of ancient Jerusalem, and from Mt. Zion "would go forth the law" to all nations. (Isaiah 2:3).

In 1886 Theodor Herzl, an Austrian-Jewish writer, began an effort to claim a home in Palestine for the Jewish people. He published a book called *Der Judenstaat* and in 1897 he organized the World Zionist Organization as an instrument to carry out his program. Herzl died in 1904 and his ideas were somewhat modified by Chaim Weizmann, a biochemist, born in Russia, who took his place as president of the World Zionist Organization and became president of the Jewish Agency Council.

Zionism as proclaimed by Herzl was a movement to re-establish a Jewish State to which all Jews would migrate. It was to be in Palestine and include the ancient Biblical Kingdoms of David and Solomon. In the sense that Zionism wanted Palestine, a territory largely occupied by Arabs, it became the central issue of the Jewish-Arab conflict in the Middle East. Herzl claimed that, when the State of Israel would be established, all Jews who did not migrate should be considered anti-Semitic. See Theodor Herzl, *The Jewish State*, 5th ed. (H. Pordes, London, 1967).

## 12. WHAT WAS TO HAPPEN TO THE ARABS LIVING IN PALESTINE?

According to Herzl the "penniless population," meaning the Arabs, would be moved out by refusing them employment and an exclusively Jewish State would result. Weizmann repeated this policy. This theme is recurrent in Zionist literature. See Taylor and Tetlie, *Palestine: A Search For Truth* (Public Affairs Press, 1970), pp. 89-96.

## 13. IS THERE SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE THAT ZIONISM'S PURPOSE WAS TO ELIMINATE THE PALESTINIAN ARABS?

It is found in many documents: Chaim Weizmann's memoranda to Lord Cecil of the United Kingdom in 1917, the King-Crane report to President Woodrow Wilson in 1920, the Resolution of the British Labor Party in December, 1944, and documented in John Davis, *The Evasive Peace* (New York, New World Press, 1970), pp 53-72 — former Commissioner-General of UNRWA, and Richard P. Stevens, *Zionism and Palestine Before The Mandate* (Beirut, Institute of Palestine Studies, 1972).

14. DID THE ZIONISTS GET WORLD APPROVAL FOR A JEWISH HOME IN PALESTINE?

In 1917 Britain issued the famous Balfour Declaration and the World Zionist Organization persuaded the United Kingdom to adopt part of its program. When World War I was over, Britain received the Mandate to govern Palestine and recognized the Jewish Agency as an official body, thus giving World Zionism an international status.

15. WHAT WAS THE BALFOUR DECLARATION?

It was a statement issued on November 2, 1917, by the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Arthur Balfour, to a private British subject, Lord Lionel Walter Rothschild of the World Zionist Organization, using vague terminology of a "Jewish National Home" and protective of the non-Jewish population and of Jews elsewhere in the world. It reads as follows:

"I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of his Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet: —

His Majesty's Government views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country. I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation."

16. HOW DID THE PALESTINIAN ARABS RECEIVE THIS DECLARATION?

They were utterly dismayed when its contents were made known and the post-war immigration policies announced. The British Government, however, continued to reassure the Arabs that their rights would be protected, that the Declaration spoke of "a national home" and not "the national home". It did not refer to a sovereign state. The Arabs took some courage from the famous Fourteen Points Speech of President Woodrow Wilson — namely that post-war agreements would be based on a free acceptance of those settlements by the people immediately concerned. However, they were to learn that they would be consulted infrequently.

17. WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN PALESTINE IN 1919 WERE JEWS?

According to the British archives about 9% were of Jewish background. There were 65,000 Jews and 650,000 Christians and Muslim Arabs living in Palestine. See, Frank H. Epp, *Whose Land Is Palestine?* (Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1970) p. 144.

## 18. WAS THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES OBSERVED?

This principle is recognized in International Law and was enunciated by President Wilson in 1918. It is included in Chapter One, Article 1 of the United Nations charter regarding the purpose of the United Nations — “. . . to develop friendly feelings among nations based on the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples . . . ”

It was not observed. It led to a paralysis of British policy. The British served notice that the Mandate would be terminated in 1948. The United Nations sanctioned a questionable partition of Palestine in 1947. The Arabs objected. “A National Home” was imposed upon the predominantly Arab population. It served to undermine the effectiveness of the United Nations. Having violated its own principles, the United Nations is largely ignored by Israelis and Arabs alike.

## 19. DID POLITICAL CONSIDERATION INFLUENCE THE BALFOUR DECLARATION?

Very definitely. The British military fortunes were strained in World War I (1914-1918) and Zionists utilized this opportunity to make a deal with the United Kingdom.

Zionist leaders, including Chaim Weizmann, persuaded the British government that Jewish groups in Russia could prevent Russia from making a separate peace with Germany, and Jewish influence in the United States would increase American support of the United Kingdom — if the British Government declared a policy of supporting Jewish interests in Palestine. A Jewish State, they promised, would support British Imperial policy by safeguarding the Suez Canal and acting as a buffer to Turkey. See, Leonard Stein, *The Balfour Declaration*, (London: Vallentine Mitchell, 1961).

## 20. DID THE BRITISH MAKE AN AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND WITH THE ARABS?

During the period of World War I, the British made an agreement with the Arabs that they would be granted independence if they joined the Allies in the war against Turkey and Germany. At the time the information was kept confidential. This is well documented in the classical book by George Antonius.

Mr. Antonius says, “The note which McMahon dispatched in reply to Abdullah, Shariff of Mecca, Hejaz, dated October 24, 1915 . . . contains pledges which brought the Arabs into the war openly on the side of the Allies. The note recognizes and upholds the independence of the Arabs in the area contained within the frontiers proposed by the Shariff, with the exception of Asia Minor and of Syria.” See, George Antonius, *The Arab Awakening* (Philadelphia: J. P. Lippincott), p. 169.

21. DID BRITAIN CREATE A VACUUM IN PALESTINE WHEN IT TERMINATED THE MANDATE IN 1948?

Space does not permit a proper treatment of what happened. Great Britain was in an untenable position after World War II. The World Zionist Organization pushed hard for control of Palestine. Bitter clashes took place between Zionists and Arabs. In many ways the Jewish Resistance Movement became a de facto government. Britain suffered great losses in dollars and lives. She felt cornered and announced to the United Nations that she would terminate the Mandate May 15, 1948. A vacuum was created. The Haganah, Jewish secret military organization, became the Jewish National Army. Menahem Begin, leader of another militant group, announced that his organization would respect Israel as its own government and cease underground activities. President Harry Truman announced recognition of the provisional government of the new State of Israel, and war broke out immediately between the two parties to the conflict — the Jews and Arabs of former Palestine. See, Fred J. Khouri, *The Arab-Israeli Dilemma* (Syracuse University Press, 1968), pp. 43-101.

22. WHAT COURSE OF ACTION DID THE UNITED NATIONS FOLLOW?

In 1947 the United Nations approved partitioning the land of Palestine into a Jewish State and an Arab State. The Arabs objected to this plan but the United States supported the U. N. special commission report. The City of Jerusalem was to be a "corpus separatum" under the United Nations.

"The Palestine Commission appointed by the General Assembly in its resolution of November 29, 1947 to implement the partition plan had reported on the steadily deteriorating situation in Palestine. . . . On March 19, 1948 Mr. Warren R. Austin, the U.S. representative at the U.N., asked the Security Council to suspend action on the partition plan and to call a special session of the General Assembly at once to work on a new solution." It was working on such a plan when Ben Gurion declared the Independence of Israel on May 15, 1948. See, Henry Cattan, *Palestine, The Arabs & Israel* (London: Longmans, Green and Co.) pp. 31, 32.

23. AT THE TIME OF THE UNITED NATIONS PARTITION RECOMMENDATION, WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN PALESTINE WERE JEW AND ARAB?

There were about 650,000 Jews and 1,300,000 Arabs living in Palestine in 1947. The partition resolution allotted the proposed Jewish state 56 percent of the total area of Palestine, though Jewish ownership of the land did not exceed six percent of the total area of the country and only nine percent of the area of the proposed Jewish state. See, Frank H. Epp, *Whose Land Is Palestine?* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1970), pp. 184, 185.

24. DID THE ARABS AND JEWS OF PALESTINE ACCEPT THE PARTITION RECOMMENDATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS?

The Jewish Agency for Palestine indicated its acceptance, while the Arab Higher Committee and the Arab delegates from Arab countries to the United Nations opposed the recommendation. They believed the recommendation was unworkable and would lead to further hostility between the Arabs and the Jews. They were proved correct. Fighting and massacres broke out shortly after the recommendation to partition Palestine in November of 1947. See, E. H. Hutchison, *Violent Truce* (New York, Devin-Adair Company, 1956).

25. ZIONISM ALLEGES IT REPRESENTS THE JEWISH PEOPLE. WHAT IS MEANT BY THE "JEWISH PEOPLE?"

Among Jews there is no clear definition of Jewishness. It may mean a child born to a Jewish mother, an ethnic background, the practice of traditional Jewish laws or anyone who considers himself Jewish.

Strict Zionists use the term as synonymous with the State of Israel or the Jewish Nation and have tried to get international recognition that Israel represents the Jewish People and may speak for them in whatever nation they live. The U.S. Department of State has denied such recognition.

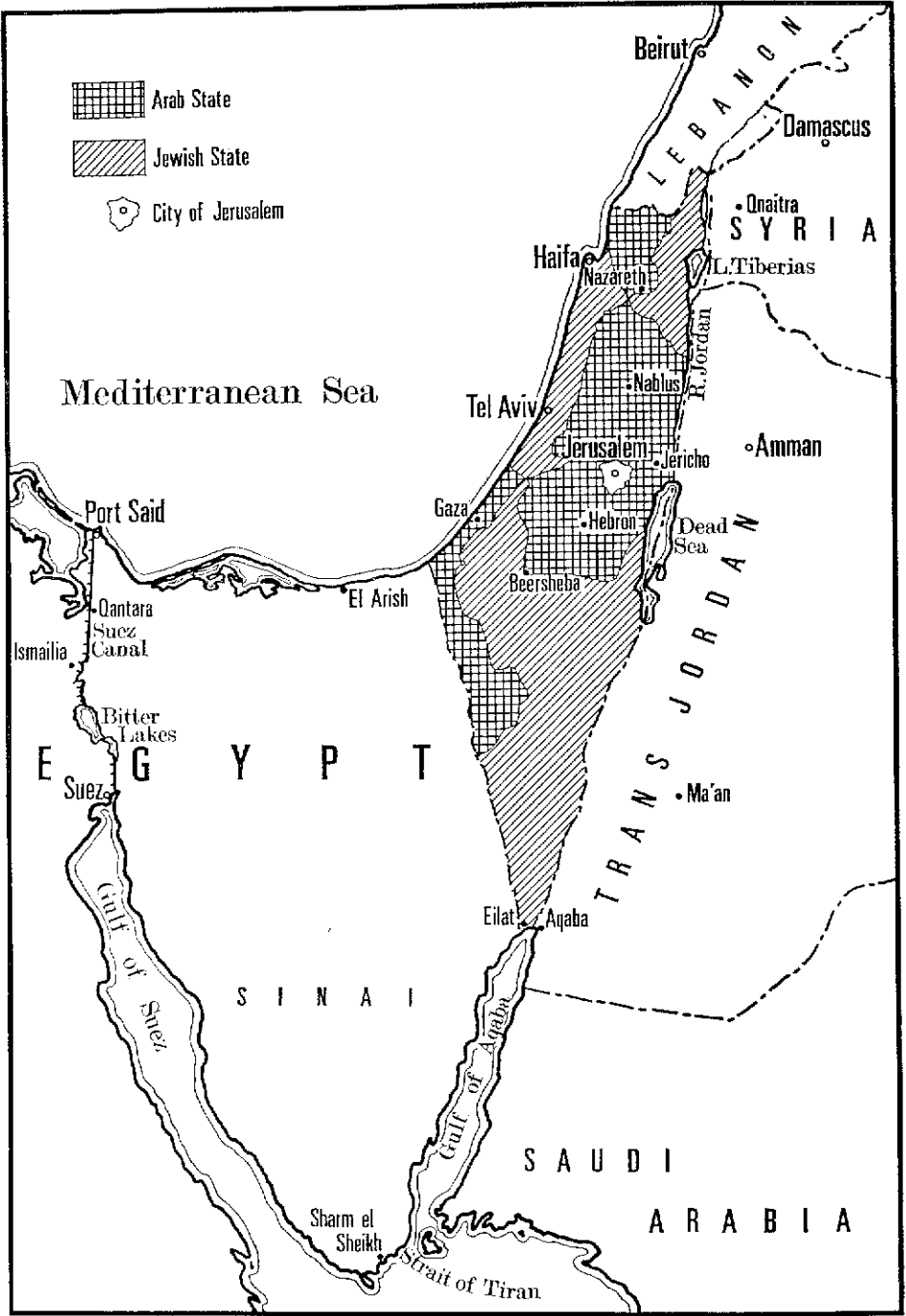
Zionism insists that such a unit owns Palestine, Eretz Israel, based on records in sacred Hebrew scriptures, and that this right is unique to them, unlike that of other national states.

In 1952-53, the World Zionist Organization and the State of Israel published a Covenant insisting that the central purpose in establishing the State of Israel was the ingathering of Jews throughout the world. Not all Jews subscribe to this Covenant but its influence has been far reaching. See W. T. Mallison, *The George Washington Review* (Volume 32, June 1964), pp. 993-4.

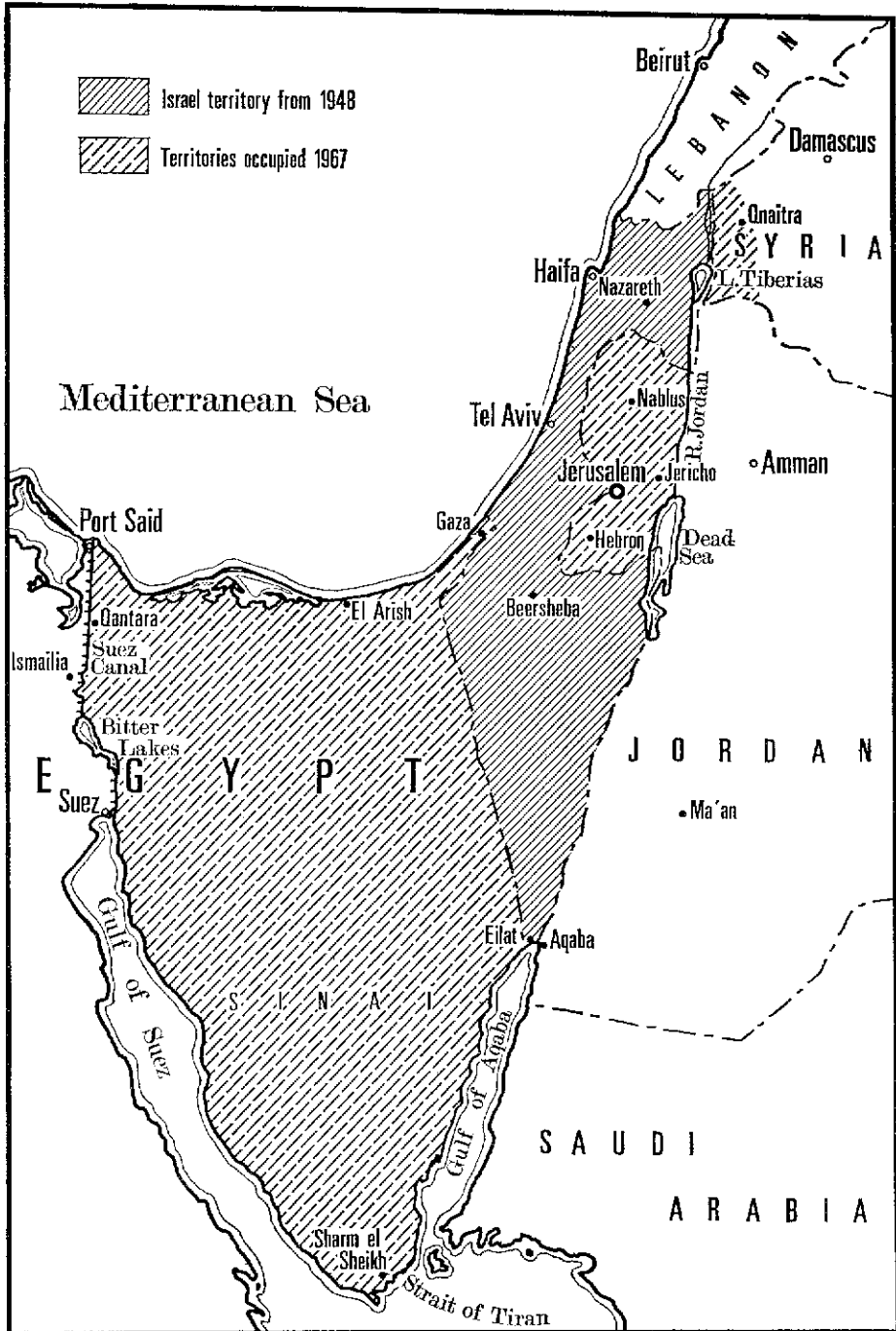
26. ARE ALL JEWISH PEOPLE ZIONISTS?

There are Jews who are Zionist, anti-Zionist, and non-Zionist. Not all Jews in Israel are Zionists. The Chairman of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights, Dr. Israel Shahak of Jerusalem, is an anti-Zionist. Dr. Shahak opposes the exclusive nature of the State of Israel and argues that Israel should be an Israeli state and not a religious state where Jews are more privileged than non-Jews. He is supported by several Jewish intellectuals.

Some Jews in the U.S. oppose the Jewish People concept of the State of Israel and resent Israel's claim upon them; namely, that Israel represents the Jewish People and insists that Jews must be loyal to Israel — though they are scattered throughout the world. Well known anti-Zionist Jews of the United States are Rabbi Elmer Berger of New York, Dr. Norton Mezvinsky of New Britain, Connecticut, Dr.



Palestine. Plan of partition recommended by the General Assembly of the United Nations, 1947



Israel territory resulting from Armistice Agreements, 1948. Territories occupied as a result of the hostilities of June 1967

Noam Chomsky, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Mr. Moshe Menuhin, Los Gatos, California. See, Moshe Menuhin, *The Decadence Of Judaism In Our Time* (Beirut: The Institute For Palestine Studies, 1969) and Elmer Berger's *Reports - Jewish Alternatives to Zionism* 133 East 73rd Street, New York.

27. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PALESTINIAN ARABS WHO WERE CLEARED FROM THE LAND?

There are settlements of Arabs still living in Israel but between April 9, 1948 and December 1948, about 800,000 Palestinians had been cleared from an area held by the Israeli army. Subsequent actions by the Israeli army, especially in 1956 and 1967, increased that number to approximately 1.4 million and their number by natural growth is still increasing.

The United Nations established a Relief and Works Agency to care for these people. It spends about 10c per refugee per day for food, medicine, housing and schooling. The Refugee Camps are in Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. The U.S. is a heavy supporter of this refugee program. From these camps springs the bitterness that generates guerilla activities. See John Davis, *The Evasive Peace*. (New York: New World Press, 1970), ch. 5, and Collins-LaPierre, *O Jerusalem* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1972), pp. 282, 551.

28. OTHER THAN REMEDIAL HELP, DOES THE UNITED NATIONS OFFER ANY SOLUTION TO THE REFUGEE PROBLEM?

It has repeatedly called for their repatriation or compensation but Israel has frequently denied that it will accept them under any conditions. The skilled Palestinian refugees had no difficulty finding employment outside of Israel but most of the refugees were farm workers and the Arab countries to which they fled already had an oversupply of agricultural workers — thus creating an economic burden upon these countries. Presently there are no plans for the resettlement of the refugees and each year their helpless and hopeless condition becomes more wretched. See, Henry Cattin, Palestine, *The Arabs & Israel* (London: Longmans, 1969), Part IV.

29. ARE THE REFUGEES USED AS PAWNS BY THE ARAB STATES TO AGITATE THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE?

This is strictly a myth and should have been dispelled by Jordan's attack upon the Palestinian refugees. Unfortunately, the Palestinian refugees except in Jordan are stateless. It would serve the Arab States well if a legitimate solution were found for the disposition of the refugee problem. There will be serious tension — not only between Arabs and Jews but in the international community — until this festering problem is reasonably solved.

30. WHAT IS THE STAND OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE?

Since 1948 each President of the U.S. has pronounced contradictory statements, supporting Israel in its conquests and adding that it supports the rights of the Palestinians to return and also the territorial sovereignty of the Arab States.

The last official policy was announced by Secretary of State, William Rogers, on December 9, 1969, giving approval to the Security Council Resolution 242 of November 1967. This Resolution calls for recognition of Israel's sovereignty, withdrawal from occupied territories, freedom of navigation through international waterways and a just settlement of the refugee problem.

Israel denounced the Rogers proposal and no further statement has emerged since then except that President Nixon has publicly stated he wishes to "normalize" relations with the Arab States. The United States is the sole large supporter of Israel in finances, arms and political influence.

31. IS ISRAEL A MOST FAVORED STATE OF THE UNITED STATES AMONG STATES OF THE NEAR EAST?

Israel receives a larger per capita monetary subsidy from the U.S. than does any Arab State. In a June 1972 meeting with 100 Jewish editors and publishers, President Nixon informed his guests that from 1948 through 1968 the United States Government had supplied Israel with \$1.7 billion in military and economic aid but since he had taken office in January 1969, an additional \$1.8 billion had flowed to Israel. By comparison the Arab States receive very little. Jordan has been receiving a yearly subsidy of about \$100 million.

32. IS THERE ZIONIST INFLUENCE ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY?

There is a strong Zionist lobby in the United States. The *Near East Report*—a Zionist publication—goes regularly to every Congressman. Its editor is I. L. Kenen, a U.S. citizen, registered as a foreign agent. Senator William Fulbright stated in May 1973 that "Israel controls the Senate." The *Washington Post* of February 20, 1972, stated in an article that the American Jewish community through its large contributions to political parties has largely determined United States policy on the Arab-Israeli conflict and, of course, favorable to Israel. In addition, large contributions in tax-free U.S. dollars reach Israel each year through the United Jewish Appeal — thus making it possible for more of Israel's dollars to be used for military purposes, and Israeli Bonds are sold in the U.S. market, averaging \$250,000,000 yearly. Other countries are not so privileged.

### 33. IS THERE A QUESTION OF CONFLICT OF LOYALTY?

Nahum Goldman, former President of the World Zionist Organization and at one time a U.S. citizen, argued for dual loyalty with prime loyalty to Israel because of Jewish tradition, religion and the unity of the Jewish people. In 1945-1949 a conspiracy of Palestinian Jews and Zionist Jews in the U.S. organized to raise money, enlist recruits, purchase contraband arms and ship them in violation of U.S. laws to Palestine. See, Leonard Slater, *The Pledge* (New York: Pocket Books, 1971).

In the U.S. Supreme Court decision of "Rusk versus Afroyim", 1966, the U.S. recognized dual United States and Israeli citizenship.

### 34. ARE EMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL INDIGENT PEOPLE?

The *Jewish News*, January 14, 1972, states "According to a Jewish Agency report prepared for the 28th World Zionist Congress, 40% of the immigrants who arrived in Israel since 1968 came from the 12 richest countries of the world and even those from the poorer countries represented the better educated, more affluent strata of society. The report stated that most of these immigrants had to lower their living standards on arrival in Israel."

The *Jewish News*, Newark N. J., February 17, 1972, stated that it costs \$35,000 to bring a "family to Israel and make them productive members of Israeli society . . . . More than half the budget is expected to be raised in the United States."

### 35. WHAT ARE THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

Goodwill, stability and oil. For more than a hundred years the U. S. enjoyed a favorable image in the Near East. That image is tarnished today by the lack of an evenhanded foreign policy in the Middle East. The Soviet Union has gained considerably through its military and economic support of Arab countries, especially in Egypt, Iraq and Syria. The United States has become increasingly dependent upon Middle East oil, as are its NATO allies. See, Conference Report, Middle East Institute (1761 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., September 1972). It is about the energy crisis.

In May 1967, President Lyndon Johnson announced: "To the leaders of all the nations of the Near East, I wish to say what three presidents have said before . . . . that the United States is fully committed to the support of the political independence and territorial integrity of all the nations of the area. The United States strongly opposes aggression by anyone in any form; overt or clandestine."

36. WHAT HAS BEEN THE ATTITUDE OF THE AMERICAN CHURCHES REGARDING THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE?

For the most part the American Churches have ignored this problem — other than to grant aid to the refugees. It would seem that Christians in the United States have been largely influenced by Zionist public relations. Some have gone so far as to use scripture to justify Israel's claim on Palestine. More recently, the churches seem to have a more open stance on the issue, and those with mission interests in the Middle East are aware of the nature of the problem. The Society of Friends and the United Presbyterian Church have published special study reports.

37. SINCE THE JUNE WAR OF 1967, HAS THE CHARACTER OF JERUSALEM CHANGED?

Jerusalem is totally under Israeli rule at the present time. Jewish housing projects have been established on Mt. Scopus and the general character of the Old City is becoming Judaized. Eastern Christians and Muslims who live outside of Israel do not have easy access to their sacred shrines. Israel has not granted Israeli citizenship to Arabs living in occupied Jerusalem, though it has annexed their land.

Jerusalem is holy to Christians, Jews and Muslims. Israeli excavations near Muslim shrines cause irritation. As a result of the Judaization of East Jerusalem, Christians and Muslims are not as equal as Jews and they tend to migrate where they have equality of treatment. This means the slow erosion of a Christian community in Jerusalem. See, Evan Wilson, *Jerusalem - Key to Peace* (Middle East Institute, 1971, Washington, D. C.).

38. WHAT IS ISRAEL'S POLICY TOWARD ARAB TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL IN THE JUNE 1967 WAR?

Since the War of 1967, Israel has established Civilian Collective Settlements, Paramilitary Settlements, Cooperative Farm Settlements and Oil Fields in the Occupied Territory and all done in violation of the Geneva Conventions signed by Israel. These Conventions prohibit demographic changes by the occupying power. John Cooley of the *Christian Science Monitor* states ". . . the consensus of Israeli opinion appears to be overwhelmingly in favor of keeping everything, and continuing to invest capital." Such actions delay a peace settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute. See, John K. Cooley, *The Christian Science Monitor* (May 30, 1973) p. 7.

39. WHY DOES ISRAEL AGITATE FOR THE MIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWRY TO ISRAEL?

Because of (1) sympathy for Soviet Jews, (2) Zionistic philosophy and (3) political reasons. It is human to be concerned with those of

one's religious persuasion but there are other factors. Zionism believes that all Jews must be returned to Eretz Israel. In the past this has meant the displacement of non-Jews, for land must be found for the newcomers.

Internal politics are a factor, too. Israel is roughly divided between European Jews and Oriental Jews. The former are called Ashkenazim and the latter Sephardim. The ruling party in Israel consists of Ashkenazi Jews but the Sephardi Jews have a larger birthrate. The Jews of European origin fear the larger percentage of Oriental Jews will change the character of Israel. Soviet Jewry increases the strength of the present ruling party and that party has ruled Israel from its inception. See, Nathaniel Weyl, *The Jew In American Politics* (Arlington House), Chapter 18.

#### 40. IS THERE FURTHER DANGER OF WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

Every American President since 1948 has stressed the strategic importance of this region for world security. The expulsion of Soviet forces from Egypt in July 1972 reduced the Big Power tensions but did nothing to reduce threats to peace between the Arab States and Israel, and between Palestinian Arabs and Israel.

#### 41. WHAT ARE THE DESIGNS OF ISRAEL'S PRESENT LEADERSHIP?

On the 25th Anniversary of Israel, May 1973, former Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Ben Gurion, stated that Israel needs 6,000,000 more Jews without which the purpose of the State can not be fulfilled.

In his speech of May 7, 1973, Assistant Secretary of State, Joseph Sisco, pointed out that the Israeli government had indicated it would not return to the pre-June 1967 boundaries but had refused to state what boundaries it would accept. Israel expects large scale assistance from the United States. It also insists upon keeping the "Jewish character" of the State and this infers keeping the Arabs as an insignificant element in Israeli society.

#### 42. DOES ISRAEL GRANT EQUALITY TO ITS NON-JEWISH CITIZENS?

By legislation the State of Israel has created two classes of citizenship — one for Jews and one for non-Jews. Jews may become citizens automatically by going to Israel and opting for citizenship; non-Jews must apply and then have their application accepted or rejected by the Government. The Israeli Government has, since 1948, clearly declared that in this manner, it will maintain a large Jewish majority in the State. See also Edwin M. Wright, *A Tale Of Two Hamlets*, NOCMEU, P.O. Box 16094, Cleveland, Ohio 44116.

#### 43. IS MODERN ISRAEL THE FULFILLMENT OF BIBLICAL PROPHECY?

Much confusion arises over this question. It is a misuse of the Bible to identify 20th century Israel with the ancient literature of the Jews and Christians. Jacques Barzun of Columbia University in his book *Race* ridicules the idea of pure ethnic origins. Intermarriage among peoples of the world has destroyed pure racial breeds in civilized societies. This is true of Jews as well as non-Jews.

According to religious dogma, the Covenant of the Old Testament was a promise made by God to Abraham and fulfilled in the revelation of the traditional Mosaic Law and the conquest of Canaan. (Genesis 12:7; Deuteronomy 4; and Joshua.) This involved the extermination of the former inhabitants by the sword (Numbers 31), but is quite inconsistent with the emphasis of Amos, Jeremiah, Micah and Jesus.

New Testament theology identifies the Christian Church as the New Israel. The Covenant People of the Old Testament forfeited the Covenant relationship and God transferred it to a new Covenant relationship, The Body of Believers in Christ. This concept is denied by Jews, which reveals how difficult it is to solve international problems by appealing to the Bible. Islamic beliefs complicate it still further.

Amos saw the covenant as a rule of justice, regardless of any special people (Amos 5:14,15,21-24). Hosea likens Israel to a harlot (Hosea 1:2). Jeremiah stated the Covenant had been forever broken by Israel's sinfulness, and a new Covenant would be made, not involving territory or ethnic origins but of the spirit and in the heart (Jeremiah 31:33). Is it not better to remain with this attitude than to make scripture fit into the prejudicial concepts of peoples and nations? See, John C. Trever, *On The Meaning Of Biblical Prophecy* NOCMEU, Position Paper 2, P.O. Box 16094, Cleveland, Ohio 44116; and Walid Khalidi, *From Haven To Conquest*, (Beirut, The Institute For Palestine Studies, 1971), p. 25.

#### 44. WHAT HAS BEEN THE DOLLAR FLOW TO ISRAEL?

Each Arab-Israeli War escalated the dollar flow from the United States to Israel — both public and private. The following figures were compiled by Middle East Perspective, 850 Seventh Avenue, New York 10019 from Library of Congress figures for its full page advertisement which appeared in the Wall Street Journal, February 7, 1974. See again, question 31.

## DOLLAR FLOW TO ISRAEL

An inordinate price has already  
been paid for the abnormal  
U.S.—Israel relationship!

1948-1973

U.S. Government Economic Aid .....	\$ 1.73 Billion
U.S. Government Military Assistance .....	1.42 Billion
Private Contributions (Tax Exempt)	
Institutions .....	2.59 Billion
Individuals .....	1.90 Billion
Israel Bonds* .....	2.05 Billion
Loans from U.S. Banks.....	1.45 Billion

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<b>TOTAL as of October, 1973.....</b>	<b>\$ 11.14 Billion</b>
Special 1973 Israel Military Assistance .....	2.20 Billion
Private Contributions and Bonds since October War .....	.80 Billion

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**TOTAL .....** **\$14.14 Billion**

(or \$4,500. per Israeli Citizen)

This is exclusive of the \$549-million given to UNRWA, the agency that provides the Arabs with a bare minimum of subsistence; and of the \$906-million in reparations received by Israel from Germany when the U.S. forgave war debts due us. And the closure of the Suez Canal is costing the U.S. and the Free World \$3-billion yearly.

\*Not subject to the Interest Equalization Tax as are other foreign securities.

### 45. WHAT ARE THE CHANCES FOR PERMANENT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

We believe the best hope is in support of Resolution 242 of the Security Council of the United Nations. It has the sanction of the world community. It calls for the Recognition of the Sovereignty of Israel; Freedom of Navigation through International Waterways; Withdrawal of Israel from Occupied Territories; and, a Just Settlement of the Refugee Problem.

But the permanent solution is the disarming of the feeling of hostility and suspicion between the two cultures. In the words of Professor Avigdor Levontin of Israel, "A secure border — to the extent that such a thing exists in our world — isn't a 'natural' boundary like a

mountain range or a river; . . . Nor is it a border mentioned in signed documents. A border is secure when those living on the other side do not have sufficient motivation to infringe on it." See, *Middle East Perspective*, (January, 1974), p. 5., 850 Seventh Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10019.

46. WHAT WERE THE CAUSES AND WHAT MAY BE THE PROBABLE RESULTS OF THE FOURTH ARAB-ISRAELI WAR OF OCTOBER 6 - 24, 1973?

The remote causes go back to Theodor Herzl's view (1860-1904), of a Zionist Jewish State, "I shall lead a people without a country to a country without a people." This dream of a large Messianic exclusive Jewish State threatened not only the Palestinian community but its Arab neighbors. In the June War of 1967, Israel enlarged its borders by taking strategic areas from Syria, Jordan and Egypt. Arabs were evicted from their homes and some 50 Jewish settlements established in their place. In 1973 Israel announced it had plans to establish another 31 such settlements as soon as it had the finances and new immigrants.

Jewish private gifts and purchases of Israeli Bonds, plus Zionist pressures in Congress and on the White House convinced the Arab States that Israel intended to annex the conquered areas — with United States support.

This Israeli policy was a violation of the United Nations Charter, a violation of the Security Council Resolution 242 of November 22, 1967, a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 on Occupied Territories, a violation of the Geneva Convention of Human Rights — all of which conventions had been signed by both Israel and the USA, but which were openly disregarded by Israel.

In July 1973, the Arab States took their case to the Security Council of the U.N. and were repulsed by a United States veto. Having tried every avenue to negotiation and failed, in desperation they decided on a *limited* war and an oil embargo to force an end of the stalemate.

Herzl's Zionist view still influences Israel. General Ariel Sharon of Israel, now a member of Israel's 120 member parliament who led Israel forces across the Suez into Egypt in the Fourth War told National Observer Staff Writer Lawrence Mosher, "this dream of ours has been a continuous procedure that started 80 to 90 years ago, . . ." and . . . "I would like to see the government of Israel assume more of the direction of Jews abroad. In a way, this government is really the government of all the Jews around the world." See, *Middle East International*, (June 1973), pages 11-12 and *The National Observer*, (February 2, 1974), page 1.

The first edition of the ABCs was published in 1971. Since then many significant events have taken place so the Present Edition repeats the Questions and Answers of the First Edition but brings the story up to date by the addition of new material.

#### 47. HOW DID THE OCTOBER 6-23, 1973 ARAB-ISRAELI WAR CHANGE THE WORLD SITUATION?

Israel, unprepared for war, suffered heavy casualties in men and material and in near panic, appealed to the United States for vast quantities of arms. On October 12, the massive air lift began. The Israelis began the counter attack and crossed the Canal. On October 19, President Nixon asked the US Congress to give Israel \$2.2 Billion as a gift to pay for the arms. Upon hearing the news via news reports, the Arab members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, declared an oil embargo on the US and Holland. On October 20, Kissinger flew to Moscow. On October 23, a Cease Fire was ordered, supported by the USA and the USSR.

Taking advantage of world tensions, the OPEC (Office Petroleum Exporting Countries) nations quadrupled the price of oil from near \$3.00 a barrel to \$12.50. Israel's false sense of invincibility was shattered and its domination over US policies toward the Arab States was shaken. President Nixon and Kissinger toured Egypt, Syria and Israel and promised a more even-handed policy. This story is told in detail by Edward Sheehan, who accompanied Kissinger, in his book, "The Arabs, Israelis and Kissinger". (Readers Digest Press N.Y. 1976). Scandals connected with Watergate removed President Nixon from the scene in 1975 and in Israel serious scandals, a suicide and a growing rift between President Ford and Prime Minister Y. Rabin of Israel, forced both resignations.

#### 48. IS THE LEBANESE CIVIL WAR RELATED TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE?

Yes, to a degree. The primary cause however, goes back to the French Mandate (1919) when France developed a government dominated by Christians, who were a minority. With the passage of time, a high Muslim birthrate increased the Muslim population. Then in 1948, some 300,000 Palestinian refugees fled before the Israeli armies into Lebanon. They were mostly Muslim. After the defeat of the Arabs by Israel in 1967, the Palestinians lost faith in Arab governments and organized the Palestinian Liberation Organization, borrowing tactics from Jewish Terrorist groups. They obtained arms and began to use South Lebanon as a base for guerilla attacks on Israel. Israel retaliated with massive air raids on Lebanon. Meanwhile Lebanon became divided on an Extreme Left - Rightist struggle. With the first

incidents of violence between Palestinian guerillas and Phalangists in 1975, the Lebanese army became "unglued". The National government disintegrated leaving the country a victim of at least five "private" armies, all armed and financed from outside Lebanon. Eventually in May 1976 a Syrian army moved in north of the Litani River to stop the bloodshed. Israel warned the Syrians not to move south of the Litani River. Because of continued PLO operations into Israel, Prime Minister Menachim Begin ordered the Israeli armed forces to occupy South Lebanon on March 17, 1978. Casualties to Lebanon were over one thousand killed as Israel used F-15 planes and cluster bombs on Lebanese Villages. 225,000 fled to North Lebanon.

#### 49. WHAT IS ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE TOWARD LEBANON?

When Zionists claimed a "homeland", their early maps and statements included South Lebanon to the Litani River as a part of Biblical Israel and they wanted the water of the Litani River diverted to Galilee, for Israel's use. Maps drawn up in Israel in 1971 continue to show such diversions. In June 1978, when Israeli troops withdrew from Lebanon, they left a Phalangist Christian army, financed, armed and dressed in Israeli uniforms as Israel's client troops in Lebanon, thus extending "protection" over the Christians in Lebanon. Only one conclusion is possible. Most likely - Israel intends to partition Lebanon, into two states, with the "Christian State" allied to Israel.

#### 50. WHO IS MENACHIM BEGIN?

Menachim Begin was born in Poland in 1913. Some of his family were killed when Germany invaded Poland. At the age of 16, he joined BETAR the youth movement of the Terrorist, Vladimir Zeev Jabotinski, who founded the Revisionist Party in Palestine in 1923. In 1940, the Russian army entered Poland and moved General Andrus' Polish army into the USSR. The British urged the USSR to send General Andrus' army to Palestine for re-organization and for re-equipment, after which they fought against Germans in Italy. Begin deserted in Palestine and reorganized the Terrorist remnants of Jabotinski's guerilla units and called his group the IRGUN. They declared war against Great Britain in December 1944 and began a series of assassinations of British Mandatory officials. In April 1948, the Irgun massacred the population of an Arab village, Deir Yassine as a warning for Arabs to leave.

The bombing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem was another of its atrocities. Ninety persons were killed. When Israel became a state in May 1948, Begin emerged from hiding and organized the HERUT political party as an opposition party to the Labor (MAPAI) Party. In 1975, he merged with the Orthodox Religious Party and other small groups to form the LIKUD Party. Because of scandals, the Labor Alignment split when Yigal Yadin organized a splinter group of 15 deputies into the Democratic Movement for Change. This defection, in the election of March 1977, allowed Begin's LIKUD Party to get 44 votes while the Labor Alignment fell to 38. The LIKUD Party then designated Begin as Prime Minister who persuaded Yadin's groups and the National Religious Party to join in a new government.

M. Begin is the author of a book *The Revolt* in which he gives his version of his patriotic "activities". More objective descriptions are found in J. Bowyer Bell *Terror Out of Zion* and David Hirst in *The Gun and the Olive Branch*, both published in 1977.

#### 51. WHY DID PRESIDENT SADAT OFFER TO GO TO JERUSALEM AND WHAT WERE THE IMMEDIATE RESULTS?

On October 1, 1977 the USSR and the USA published a joint statement suggesting a procedure for convening a Geneva Conference before the end of the year. Israel and US Zionists mounted such a furious attack against President Carter that he backed down. President Sadat had hoped the USA would stand firm but he was disappointed. So suddenly, without consulting anyone else, he took the risk of announcing he would be willing to break the stalemate by going to Jerusalem in November 1977. That broke the solidity of a United Arab front. Such states as Syria, Libia, Iraq and Algeria denounced him, fearing he would make a separate peace. Saudi Arabia stayed neutral. Because of Egypt's desperate economic situation, Arab states fear that Sadat might make a separate peace. Outside the Arab League, Sadat's visit to Jerusalem generated favorable world-wide attitudes.

#### 52. WHAT ARE US INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

Without trying to place them in order of importance, they are: a) Prevention of USSR penetration of the area - security. b) Access to Middle East oil. c) Preservation of the State of Israel as outlined in UN Security Council Resolution 242 of November 1967. d) An end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. e) The development of responsible and stable governments. f) Nations open for trade and travel.

### 53. ARE JEWS LEAVING ISRAEL? WHY?

The New York Times Magazine of 1/16/77 carried a long article by James Feron entitled *The Israelis of New York*. He estimates over 300,000 Israelis have migrated to the United States, 50,000 to Canada and a possible 150,000 to other "western" states. The rate of emigration is escalating yearly. Another article in the *Saturday Review* of 2/2/1977 is by Terence Smith entitled "Reflection on a Troubled People." The reason for this "escape" is complex. Israel is dominated by Polish Jews who largely control institutions and policies. The majority in Israel are Sephardic (Oriental) Jews whose life style, educational levels and habits are in conflict with the European Ashkenazi (European) Jews. The endless wars, high taxation and economic controls have cast a pall of gloom over the future. Israel's dependence on the USA for military and financial aid creates doubts about the future. The younger Israelis feel frustrated and trapped while non-religious Jews are angered by the tyranny imposed on them by the Orthodox Rabbis. When M. Begin became Prime Minister in March 1977, he at once challenged President Jimmie Carter, on the question of Israeli settlements and borders. Then, in March 1978 Begin ordered the invasion of South Lebanon. His militant expansionist policy frightened more Israelis, who crowded US consulates in an effort to get visas. Faith in the Israeli government was at a low ebb. Prime Minister Rabin referred to those emigrating as, "bug-droppings" but that did not slow down the exodus from Israel.

### 54. WILL SOVIET JEWS MIGRATE TO ISRAEL?

In February 1971, twenty four Soviet Jews entered the Kremlin and went on a hunger strike, demanding the right to go to Israel. As a result, the USSR issued from 15 to 20,000 visas per year to Jews going to Israel. They found adaption to Orthodox Jewish life and speaking Hebrew added to many other frustrating factors, made life in Israel irritating and discouraging. Many then left Israel. News got back to the USSR and increasing numbers left the USSR but refused to go to Israel. By 1978, it was reported in the press that about 80% of those leaving the USSR sought visas elsewhere, many coming on special quotas to the USA. As trained in the Communist schools, they know nothing about Judaism. Adapting to it, as practiced in Israel, is a shock which turns them to seek a home elsewhere. They find themselves "over trained" in Soviet technology for which there is no opportunity in Israel. (Ephraim Sevelas' "Farewell Israel")

## 55. IS ISRAEL A DEMOCRACY AS IN THE USA?

No. This is because the USA is a secular state and separates Religion from Politics. In Israel they are fused. So Jews are allowed many priviledges not given to non-Jews, a) in immigration, b) land purchase, c) political party organization, etc. Israel has no constitution or civil rights legislation. So non-Jews come under the Emergency Security Police rulings of 1945, borrowed from the British. Only Jews are allowed to form political parties. Arabs may join in these parties but because the parties are all Zionist, few Arabs have joined them. Furthermore, all personal status having to do with marriage, inheritance, religious rituals, etc. are under the dictation of the Orthodox Religious parties who impose the Theocratic Hallelhah by Police enforcement, regardless of personal belief. Citizens do not vote for persons - but for Parties. The Party then selects the officers to political positions. Thus Israel is partly Theocratic and non-Jews suffer many forms of discrimination.

## 56. WHAT ROLE HAS THE USSR BEEN PLAYING SINCE 1973?

The USSR continues to arm both Iraq and Syria but at a lesser level than previously. Aid to Egypt has ceased. But USSR arms to Libya remain substantial and by bringing in Cuban troops to Central Africa and Ethiopia, it has increased tensions in the Middle East. Also a Coup d'etat by Soviet trained Afghani military troops in Afghanistan in June 1978 replaced neutral government with a pro-Soviet group. The USSR was expelled from Somaliland in 1977 but stepped up its support of South Yemen. Obviously the USSR continues to exploit any tension because this affords opportunities for intervention. The USSR favors a Geneva Conference because it would be one of the members at such a Conference but while a wide gap exists between Israel and the Arabs, a Geneva Conference would accomplish little of value.

## 57. HOW INVOLVED ARE ZIONISTS IN TRYING TO SHAPE U.S. FOREIGN POLICY?

Till the October War of 1973, the Zionist (Israeli) Lobby largely dominated the US public media and government. The Arab Oil Embargo of 1973-74 proved how dangerous it was for the USA to ignore Arabs interests and a more even-handed policy emerged. This generated friction between Israel and the USA over Israeli policy of establishing Jewish settlements on Arab occupied Territory. In May 1977 Menachim Begin, the new Prime Minister of Israel, declared Judea and Samaria

were liberated Jewish territory and did not come under Resolution 242 of the UN Security Council. President Carter had stated in March 1977, that the Palestinians had a right to a homeland and the USA would press for a comprehensive settlement if possible in 1977. Begin made three trips to see President Carter, hoping to win Carter over to his position, but the third trip in March 1978 proved disastrous. Sadat meanwhile in November 1977 made his famous trip to Jerusalem to try to break the dead lock. The result of these moves was influential in getting the US public to read more about the issues and polls showed increasing sympathy for the Arab point of view and more criticism for Begin's "intransigence."

58. WHY DID THE "PACKAGE" ARMS SALES OF JUNE 1978 CAUSE SUCH A STRUGGLE IN THE US CONGRESS?

In 1974, Kissinger and Nixon, in an effort to terminate the Arab oil embargo, had promised King Faisal of Saudi Arabia that the USA would favorably consider the Saudi request for "security" needs. This was repeated by the Ford Administration but so powerful was the Israeli Lobby that moves for advanced arms had been blocked in the US Congress. When President Carter visited Saudi Arabia in January 1978, the Saudis again requested the latest type of fighter aircraft. President Carter decided to make a package deal - of F-15's for Saudi Arabia, and Israel and F-5's for Egypt. Begin and the Israeli Lobby went all out to defeat the deal, Begin and Dayan even meeting with members of the Senate favorable to Israel, urging the defeat of the package. But finally, the Senate voted 54-44 to approve the sale. It was a showdown between Israel and the US President. It indicated the beginning of the end of a "special relationship" with Israel and the development of an independent US policy including the whole Middle East. The magazine *Commentary* for July 1978 carried detailed articles on these recent events.

59. WHAT ARE SOME RECENT BOOKS WHICH ARE USEFUL IN UNDERSTANDING THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT?

A) Walter C. Laquer - *A History of Zionism* is an adequate one volume work giving the Zionist point of view.

B) David Hirst - *The Gun and the Olive Branch* (Harcourt, Brace Jovanovich 1977) is by a British author. It gives a summary of the events of the past 50 years and is a good reliable one volume source.

C) J. Bowyer Bell - *Terror Out of Zion* (New York 1977) is a review by a first rate scholar of the Terrorist Groups, first founded by Z. V. Jabotinski, followed by A Stern and M. Begin.

D) John Davis - *The Evasive Peace* (Cleveland, Ohio 1976 Reprint)

E) Edward Sheehan - *The Arabs, Israelis and Kissinger* (Readers Digest Press 1976) The best book on Kissinger's Shuttle Diplomacy and the awakening of the USA to the danger of allowing Israel to dominate US policy.

F) Ehpraim Sevela - *Farewell Israel* (Gateway Publications, S. Bend, Ind. 1977) A personal narration of a Soviet Jew who went on hunger strikes to leave the USSR in 1971. He found "primitive racism could be smelled a mile off" in Israel (P. 193), prejudices deeply ingrained in Israeli society and states that assimilation is the only way for a Jew to escape the ghetto membership he discovered in Israel (P. 269). He found Orthodox Judaism intolerable and intolerant. (P. 125-26) He left Israel and now lives in the USA.

G) Morris Alexander - *Israel and ME* (Shenkman, Cambridge Mass. 1977) The experiences of a prominent Chicago Jewish Zionist who emigrated to Israel in 1969 - and returned to the USA in 1972. Neither he nor his wife could adjust to Israeli Orthodoxy, business methods, inefficiency, rudeness, and bureaucracy. He found Israelis had a blind fold over their eyes regarding the Arabs. He felt the Israeli public was being betrayed by its government and predicted a thorough house cleaning if Israel is to survive. (P. 270-2)

#### 60. DOES THE ABC'S PUBLICATION CLARIFY THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT:

It tries to do so but the subject is vast and complex. There is a plethora of Zionist literature available in any public library and from the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee, a powerful Zionist group operating in Washington, as well as publications by Ben Gurion, Menachim Begin, Abba Eban and others, and widely disseminated in the United States.

But a vast void exists in the American scene with reference to the kind of information made available in the ABC's. Hence, an effort is made to fill that void in this small publication.

Dr. Edwin M. Wright has spent a total of 35 years in the Middle East and 20 years in the Department of State of the U.S.A.

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1. Revised August 1978

Early in 1970 a group of persons, concerned with the worsening conflict in the Middle East and the danger that the United States might be drawn into a catastrophic war, joined together to form The Northeast Ohio Committee on Middle East Understanding. Recognizing that judgments, policies and actions in respect to such a complex human problem could be disastrous if made in the absence of the most complete and objective understanding possible, and further recognizing the lack of completeness and objectivity in much of the news and other information media's communications to the general public for over two decades, the Committee endeavors to help citizens acquire a more balanced view of the history, values, religions, and social and economic conditions of the Middle East. To this end the Committee collects, prepares and distributes interpretive writings; it brings qualified speakers to various platforms, and it furnishes from its membership speakers for groups interested in this problem.

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