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THE BACKGROUND

ISRAELI DESIGNS ON LEBANON

1918 The Claim of the Advisory Committee on Palestine :

« The Advisory Committee on Palestine, which included most of the leading Zionist personalities, decided to work out a proposal for the boundaries of Palestine without waiting for Faisal... a document was drafted which said that 'on historical, economic and geographical grounds it is proposed that the boundaries of Palestine should be as follows : 'In the North, the Litani River, to Banias, close to and North of the sources of the River Jordan; then in the south-easterly direction to a point just south of the Damascus territory and west of the Hijaz railway'...»

(*H.F. Frischwasser-Ra'anan*, *The Frontiers of a Nation*, p. 101-102).

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.

1918 The Claim of the Federation of Dutch Zionists :

« At the same time the Council of the Federation of Dutch Zionists, headed by Van Vriesland and De Lieuwe, passed a resolution demanding that the frontiers of Palestine should extend in the east beyond the Hejaz Railway to the desert and in the north to points not far from Beirut and Damascus.»

(Ibid., p. 102).

1919 The Claim Submitted by the Zionist Organisation to the Peace Conference :

The Zionist Organisation demanded « a line starting on the Mediterranean just south of the port of Sidon and then running north-east up the slopes of the Lebanon, to include the greater part of the Litani and the whole of the Jordan catchment area up to its northernmost source, near Rashaya. From there, the frontier was to run along the crest of the Hermon, then turning due east to run along the northern watershed of the Yarmuk tributaries toward the Hejaz Railway at a distance of some 20 kms. south of Damascus...»

(Ibid., p. 107-108).

1919 Dr. Weizmann States His Intentions :

Chaim Weizmann's intentions towards Lebanon were made plain in the following quotation from his autobiography, *Trial and Error* : « We travelled fairly extensively, crossing the Syrian border into Lebanon, and stopping off at some of the outpost settlements. Every hill and every rock stood out like a challenge to me at this time, telling me at every turn of the road how much planning and energy and money would have to be poured into this country before it could be ready to absorb large numbers of people. »

(Chaim Weizmann, *Trial and Error*, p. 313).

1919 Lloyd George and the French Squabble Over the Frontiers :

« The Zionist leaders were informed of the new line (i.e. the Deauville Line) proposed by Lloyd George as the limit of the area to be evacuated by British troops. They were deeply anxious lest this line should become the permanent frontier and thus deprive the Jewish national home of areas vital to it. »

(H. F. Frischwasser - Ra'anana, p. 117-118).

The Deauville Line «meant leaving in French hands the coastal area to the north of the Litani, all the northern Jordan sources with the Rashaya and Hasbeiya districts, the Hermon, the Leja and Jebel Druze areas, as well as the Palmyra district of Syria. »

(Ibid., p. 115).

1919 Allenby Supports Zionist Claim :

«Colonel Gribbon of the War Office... advised the Zionists to press their claims to the Hauran. He said that the Arabs would be loath to give up the Ma'an area but that the British would mediate if any difficulties arose. At the same time, Weizmann approached Allenby and emphasized to him the strategic arguments *for a strong northern frontier*. Following this meeting, Allenby sent a telegram to the cabinet, supporting Zionist territorial aspirations on military grounds. »

(Ibid., p. 119-120).

1919 The British Foreign Office Experts' views:

«...a good case could be made for the extension of territory on economic grounds since Jewish colonisation, if it was to be carried out without *abruptly dislodging the native population*, needed the large land reserves of the south and east and *the waters of the north for irrigation and power purposes*. The Zionists wanted to divert the Litani into the Jordan valley and to set up a conservation scheme for all the waters flowing south and west from the Harmon. »

(Ibid., p. 122-123).

1920 Zionist Leaders Claim the Lower Litani :

Zionist leaders claimed the whole of the Jordan and Yarmuk basins as well as the lower Litani for Palestine. «The Zionist leaders appealed to both Lloyd George and Curzon that they should be at least permitted to divert part of the Litani waters into the Jordan and to make use of the falls of the Yarmuk near Mezerib, since otherwise the electric power plans of their engineering expert. Ruthenberg, would be irretrievably ruined. »

(Ibid., p. 135).

In 1920 Berthelot, Secretary-General of the French Foreign Ministry, had a meeting with Lloyd George and Curzon to discuss Palestine's future frontiers. Lloyd George said, « All Jews were unanimously agreed that the sources of the Hermon and the head-waters of the Jordan were vital to the existence... of Palestine... » Berthelot replied that «the snows of Hermon dominated the town of Damascus and could not be excluded from Syria, nor could the waters of the Litani, which irrigated the most fertile regions of Syria...»

(Ibid., p. 128-129).

Berthelot refused American arbitration as he considered that President Wilson was « entirely guided by Mr. Brandeis, (an American Jew) who held very decided views ». This remark was prompted by the arrival of a telegram from Judge Brandeis, endorsed by President Wilson and sent at Weizmann's request. «The cable said that French insistence on the Sykes-Picot line would

divide Palestine in complete disregard of her historical boundaries and would cripple her economy; at a minimum, the Jewish national home should include the Litani, the watersheds of the Hermon and the Hauran and Jaulan plains. »

(Ibid., p. 129).

1921 The Karen Hayesod Manifesto :

The Karen Hayesod (Jewish Foundation Fund) issued a Manifesto in 1921 in which it said (p. 25) : «It is much to be regretted that we must abandon for the present, all plans concerning the Litani,» and accept a «truncated Palestine.»

1923 When the Boundaries were Finally Accepted :

Following the acceptance of the final boundary lines by the French and the British in 1923, « The Zionist leaders were deeply disappointed at the loss of the Litani, the Upper Jordan, the Hermon and the Hauran. They tried their best to achieve a peaceful change in the frontier by settling Jewish immigrants on the land in Syria and the Lebanon, but these attempts were violently opposed by the French. »

(H. F. Frischwasser - Ra'anan, p. 139).

1964 Charges and Counter-Charges Between Ben Gurion and Yigal Allon :

Ben Gurion in an interview with the Israeli newspaper *Haboker* on 1 March 1964 : «The boundaries of the Jewish State would have been larger had Moshe Dayan been our Commander-in-Chief in 1948.»

A few days later Yigal Allon, Commander-in-Chief of the Israeli Army in 1948, replied to Ben Gurion in the same newspaper : «Had Ben Gurion not ordered a cease-fire then our troops would have occupied the Litani River in the north (Lebanon) and the Sinai desert in the south (Egypt) and also *liberated the whole of our homeland.*»

1967 The Economic Expansionism of Abba Eban :

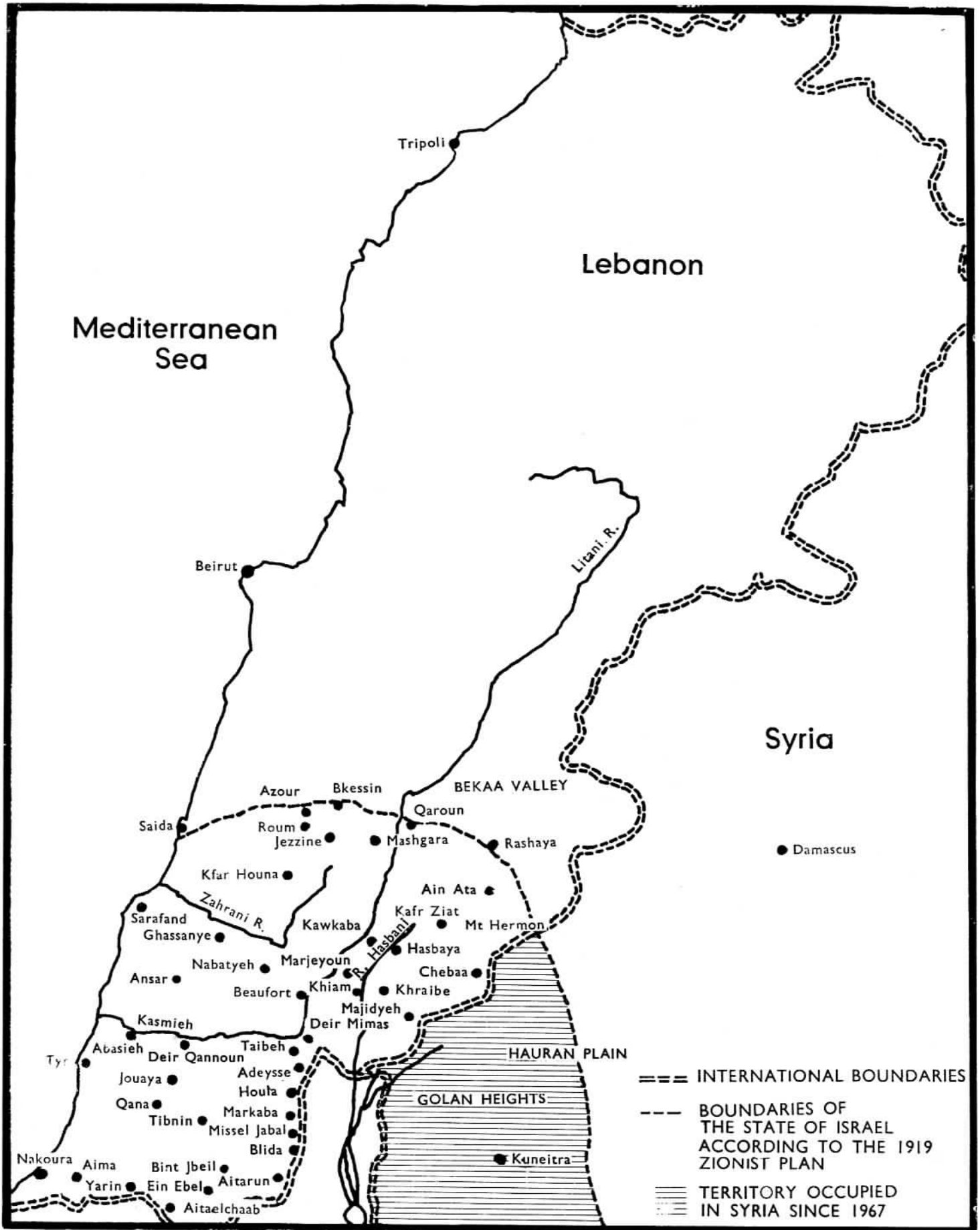
At a news conference in Strasbourg in September 1967, Abba Eban, the Israeli Foreign Minister, said that Israel was willing to form an economic community with Lebanon and Jordan... When asked whether Israel would assist the Arab countries after a peace treaty he stated: «A new area of development, could open up. I am thinking particularly of Israel, Lebanon and Jordan. These three countries should form an independent economic community with free ports and open frontiers. »

(New York Times, 28 September 1967)

1967 And the Straight forward Expansionism of Moshe Dayan :

In an interview published in the army magazine, *Bamahani*, Defence Minister Moshe Dayan declared in October 1967 : «Israel's borders, *with the exception of that with Lebanon*, are ideal, though not necessarily realistic. »

(The Jewish Chronicle, 6 October 1967)



Mediterranean
Sea

Lebanon

Syria

Tripoli

Beirut

Litani R.

BEKAA VALLEY

● Damascus

Azour

Bkessin

Qaroun

Saida

Roum

Jezzine

Mashgara

Rashaya

Kfar Houna

Ain Ata

Kafr Ziat

Mt Hermon

Sarafand

Ghassanye

Kawkaba

Hasbaya

Chebaa

Nabatyeh

Marjeyoun

Khraibe

Ansar

Beaufort

Khiam

Majidyeh

Deir Mimas

Kasmieh

Abasieh

Deir Qannoun

Taibeh

HAURAN PLAIN

GOLAN HEIGHTS

=== INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES

- - - BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL ACCORDING TO THE 1919 ZIONIST PLAN

▨ TERRITORY OCCUPIED IN SYRIA SINCE 1967

Tyr

Nakoura

Aima

Yarin

Bint Jbeil

Ein Ebel

Aitarun

Blida

Missel Jabal

Markaba

Houta

Adeysse

Jouaya

Qana

Tibnin

Blida

Aitaelchaab

Kuneitra

Just when did the Desert Start to Bloom ?

Prime-Minister Levi Eshkol to Newsweek (17 February 1969).
« It was desert — more than underdeveloped. Nothing. It was only after we made the desert bloom and populated it that they became interested in taking it from us. »

1839

Sir Moses Montefiore, a well-known British Jew, wrote that « in the Holy Land (the Jewish settlers) would find a greater certainty of success; here they will find wells already dug, olives and vines already planted, and a land so rich as to require little manure. »

1891

The well-known Zionist writer Ahad Ha'am said: «We abroad have a way of thinking that Palestine today is almost desert, an uncultivated wilderness, and that anyone who wishes to buy land there can do so to his heart's content. *But that is in fact not the case.* It is difficult to find any uncultivated land anywhere in the country... we abroad have a way of thinking that the Arabs are all savages, on a level with the animals, and blind to what goes on around them. *But that is quite mistaken.* The Arabs, especially the townsmen, see through our activities in their country, *and our aims,* but they keep silent and make no sign, because for the present they anticipate no danger to their own future from what we are about. But if the time should ever come when our people have so far developed their life in Palestine that the indigenous population should feel more or less cramped, then they will not readily make way for us.»

(Am Scheidewege, *Judischer Verlag, Berlin, Vol. I, p. 86ff.* Quoted in H. Kohn, *Nationalism in the East, London, 1923, p. 126*).

1894

Sir George Adam Smith wrote in his *Historical Geography of the Holy Land* : « If Palestine be not a land of forests, it is a land of orchards... even at the season of its annual ebb the fertility of the whole land affords a contrast to the desert.»

(Ibid., p. 74-75)

1911

The famous American geographer, Ellsworth Huntington, described Palestine as follows in *Palestine and its Transformation* : «The fertile, well-watered strip of the Philistine coastal plain.»

(Ibid., p. 25)

He also said :

« The modern Arab fellah, like the peasant of the past, raises his grains and figs with no water except that furnished by rains, but for oranges, lemons and other more valuable crops, he must have moisture during the long dry summer. Accordingly, he digs numerous wells, and from them obtains a continual supply by means of pumps.»

(Ibid., p. 58)

The Tale of a Simple Orange

Once upon a time, there was a large, juicy, Jaffa orange. It was well looked after by its Palestinian Arab guardians and it became famous for its charm and flavour. Then along came some wicked people and turned out its kind guardians and claimed the Jaffa orange for their own...

« Long before the war of 1914, the Jaffa orange was known in Hull and Liverpool and it had established for itself a reputation far surpassing the Valencia or the Washington Navel... The plantations in and around Jaffa, practically all belonging to Arabs, were well cared for, denoting the prosperity of the owners from their remunerative occupation. The area under citrus was around 30,000 dunums. »

(Palestine by M. B. Abcarius, pub. Hutchison, London, p. 153)

It was therefore surprising to read in *le Monde* of 7 February 1969, a letter from M. Boris Eliacheff, formerly French Commercial Attaché in Israel, in which he wrote that in 1949 he had received a letter from the French Director of Agricultural Services in Algeria. The Director had asked Mr. Eliacheff to ask the Israeli Government to tell them the secrets of the methods of cultivation of the Jaffa orange. Mr. Eliacheff was 'astonished' when Dov Joseph, then Minister of Agriculture, replied to him : « We can refuse nothing to France. We will tell you our secrets — on condition that you will not tell any other country of them ! »

Mr. Eliacheff must have been even *more* surprised when he read the following answer to his letter from Mr. Maurice Zamaria in *Le Monde* of 10 February 1969 — and perhaps he might have discovered why the Israelis had delivered the 'secret' of the Jaffa orange so easily !

Mr. Zamaria wrote : « The culture of the Jaffa orange (Jaffa was an Arab town until 1948) began *many centuries* before the creation of the State of Israel. These same oranges were already being exported by my father to Odessa and Marseilles, before Mr. Eliacheff was born, towards the end of the last century. Finally this species of orange is grown all over Palestine — including Gaza — and in the Lebanon and there is no 'secret' about how it is grown. »

border clashes

All through March and April there have been constant bitter clashes over the Suez Canal, and Israeli planes have time and again bombed Jordan. Here are the major clashes :

« Jordan's representative at the U.N., Mohammed Farra, accused Israel of mounting a campaign of rocket, missile and napalm attacks on Jordanian villages and towns, killing and wounding civilians and damaging property. Mr. Farra submitted a detailed list of 76 Israeli attacks between 11 December 1968 and 14 February 1969.»

(Daily Star, 6 March 1969, AP)

« A gun-battle flared over a 70-mile front from Suez to el Kantara in the North. Suez oil installations, set ablaze by Israeli gunfire yesterday, were still burning when the new clash came... The Israelis said that 14 of their soldiers were wounded today, two of them seriously, and that 7 were wounded yesterday, 2 seriously... The Egyptians reported that 3 of their men were killed today and 13 wounded; one was killed yesterday and 15 wounded. Residential districts in Ismailia appear to have been hit... 10 houses and a movie theatre were hit in Suez town ».

(International Herald Tribune, 10 March 1969)

« Egyptian and Israeli guns pounded each other along 70 miles of the Suez Canal in a repetition of week-end clashes. An Egyptian military communiqué said the Israelis used artillery and mortar fire along the canal... Rockets were used against civilians.»

(Daily Star, 12 March 1969, Reuter)



« Fierce artillery clash along the Suez Canal. »

(Daily Star, 15 March 1969, Reuter)

« Four Israeli jets blasted Arab guerrilla bases east of the Jordan River today within sight of the Israeli farmers working on the west side of the river... Jordan reported that 2 civilians were killed and 9 other wounded, 5 seriously, in the attack ».

(International Herald Tribune, 15 March 1969)

The «military targets» of the Canal area in Egypt .



« Three waves of Israeli planes bombed the outskirts of Amman and the areas of Jarash and Shobak, killing 3 civilians and injuring 7 others... 2 civilians were killed and 6 others injured in Jarash... 1 civilian killed and another injured near Shobak, 30 miles south of the Dead Sea... Jordanian military spokesmen said Israeli warplanes were armed with napalm, rockets and bombs in today's raids ».

(International Herald Tribune, 17 March 1969)

« Israeli planes attacked Jordan for the second day in a row, with rockets, napalm and machine-gun fire on border areas near the Sea of Galilee... One farmer was injured and some crops were damaged... Israeli fighters also attacked Jordanian territory three times yesterday, killing 7 and injuring 16. »

(International Herald Tribune, 18 March 1969)

« Egyptian and Israeli artillery duelled for two hours across the southern end of the Suez Canal... »

(Daily Star, 19 March 1969, Agencies)

At the U.N. Jordan protested against a new Israeli air-raid against its territory. Jordanian Ambassador, Mohammad Farra, stated that one civilian was seriously wounded, two cars destroyed and crops badly damaged. A Jordanian statement was issued on Monday which said : « These continuous Israeli attacks using napalm and rockets and endangering peace and attempts for peace make it imperative that adequate steps be taken to stop these brutal Israeli violations of elementary human rights ».

(Daily Star, 19 March 1969, Reuter)

« In Amman, Jordanian military authorities said 4 Israeli fighters, using napalm and machine-guns..., raided the al-Manshiya area. »

(International Herald Tribune, 20 March 1969, Reuter)

« Egyptian and Israeli forces pounded each other with artillery along the Suez Canal. »

(International Herald Tribune, 27 March 1969)

Four Israeli planes raided cafés at the Ain Hazir resting place, about two kilometers south of al-Salt town, killing 18 civilians and wounding 25 others. The Red Cross has been asked to investigate.

(Daily Star, 28 March 1969, Reuter)

Two Israeli aircraft attacked an area south of the Sheikh Hussein Bridge with napalm. The attack lasted 25 minutes... The Security Council is still discussing a complaint by Jordan against an Israeli air attack on Wednesday which killed 18 civilians and wounded 25 others in the Salt area.

(Daily Star, 31 March 1969, Reuter)

The «military targets» of al-Salt - in Jordan



Israel Rebuked

1. The Scornful Eban.

« International guarantees ? Something in the past. They're worth nothing. »

(L'Orient, 8 February 1969, AFP)

« We won't budge from the cease-fire lines. »

(L'Orient, 19 February 1969, AFP)

2. The Demanding Eban.

After the attack on an El Al plane in Zurich, Abba Eban, the Israeli Foreign Minister, asked U.N. Secretary-General U Thant what « constructive international action » was going to be taken to halt sabotage raids on Israeli planes.

(Herald Tribune, 21 February 1969)

3. The Rebuke.

« Secretary-General U Thant said in a stiff reply to Israel that the only way to end terrorist acts is to move toward a Middle East settlement by applying Security Council resolutions... Mr. Thant continued, 'The Security Council holds the best promise for constructive international action toward a settlement that would end terrorism.' His letter was sure to ruffle Israeli sensibilities because of its assertion that an essential first step toward agreement 'would be a declared readiness by the parties to implement the Security Council resolution of Nov. 22, 1967 as guidelines for a settlement »

(Herald Tribune, 28 February 1969)

On 14 January 1969, a French Gaullist group had asked Israel to make its policy known and « to say clearly and without equivocation whether it wanted peace. » The time has come, the group's note went on to say, « for Israel to proclaim clearly to the world that it rejects military action. Israel should say exactly what it wants and how it would be prepared to peacefully attain its aim. »

(L'Orient, 15 January 1969, Reuter)

More Statements of Peace and Goodwill

The Mini-Napoleon of the Middle East...

« I will turn the Canal into a cemetery for the Egyptians ».

(General Moshe Dayan, L'Orient 3 October 1968, All Agencies).

« By resisting our occupation, Nablus is condemning itself to destruction. »

(Moshe Dayan, L'Orient 3 April 1969, AFP)

...And the New Charmer

« How can we return the occupied territories ? There is nobody to return them to. »

(Mrs. Golda Meier, Prime Minister of Israel, L'Orient, 8 March 1969, Reuter).

THE SLIDING SCALE OF ISRAELI VALUES

1. ONE SET OF VALUES APPLIES TO THE NEW SUPERIOR RACE.

« Is the single life of the Israeli engineer killed in Athens worth less than all the metal and wire and upholstery destroyed in Beirut ? »

(Joseph Tekoah at the U.N., Time Magazine, 10 January 1969)

« Lebanese International Airlines (LIA) which lost three planes — two Coronados and DC.7 — put its loss at \$8.3 million... Trans-Mediterranean, a freight line, lost two cargo carriers that it valued at a total of \$500,000... Middle East Airlines said that it had lost eight aircraft — a Boeing 707, a VC10 and a Viscount propjet, two Caravelles and three Comets — that it valued at \$35 million. »

(New York Times, 31 December 1968)

The total loss of all three airlines was \$43.8 million.

2. A DIFFERENT SET APPLIES TO THE PALESTINIAN ARABS.

« The Israeli military government paid a provisory indemnity of 500 Israeli pounds (or \$140) to the family of a woman who was killed during a women's demonstration in Gaza. Between 100 to 200 Israeli pounds have been paid to nine women and young girls wounded during the same demonstration. »

(L'Orient, 27 January 1969, AFP)

Populationwise this estimate means that one Israeli life is worth more than the lives of three million Arabs.

KOL-ISRAEL

AN ADVOCATE OF PEACE ?

Kol-Israel, Wednesday, 15 January 1969, after the 4 o'clock Arabic News :

The Mother : Why are you crying, my darling boy ? You wanted to go to Beirut — so we took you there. You wanted to play at burning the planes of Lebanon — so we burnt them for you. So why do you go on crying ?

The Baby : I want to eat some of the delicious Damour oranges. (A village near Beirut)

The Mother : Next week, my darling boy, next week.

A MOUTHPIECE OF EXPANSIONISM

Kol-Israel, in an obituary of Premier Eshkol in the 2 o'clock French Language News on Tuesday, 27 February 1969 : « Eshkol was responsible for the *liberation* of Jerusalem and the restoration to Israel of its *historical frontiers*. »

A PROPAGATOR OF LIES

Kol-Israel, after the 2 o'clock French Language News, 8 January 1969 :

« Our country, like yours, has been through the same hardships : we have been invaded twice by foreign troops. » (Interview with the chief-editor of *Le Soir*, Brussels, Belgium)

THE PALESTINIANS,
«UNPERSONNED»

(George Orwell, 1984)

Asked whether the Palestinians were not also entitled to their homeland, Premier Levi Eshkol answered : « What are the Palestinians ? »

(Newsweek, 17 February 1969)

Asked about the role of the Palestinians in any future peace settlement, Foreign Minister Abba Eban said : « They have no role to play. »

(Le Monde, 20 January 1969)

The Palestinians « are not a party to the conflict between Israel and the Arab States ».

(Ruling by the Ramallah Military Court, Jewish Observer, 18 April 1969)

DYNAMITE NOT HAMMERS

Golda Meier's Dedication to Peace

«Her vocation was clear : she would work so that never again, anywhere in the world, would a child tremble at the sound of a hammer.»

(L'Express, 10 March 1969).

Except Arab children



Israeli sappers preparing to blow up an Arab house —↑

Arab children, as their home is about to be dynamited, prepare to tremble » ↓



