

Editor
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12/16/85

Dear Editor,

Vincent J. Mooney's excellent and informative letter (12/16) furthurs the understanding your readers can have of the complicated and dangerous situation in the middle-east and it offsets some of the misinformation that amounts to propaganda Roy Meachum has been spewing out, columns I regard as anti-semitism, which is not the same as pro-Arab.

At one point Mr. Mooney, I think, misreads what I wrote, stemming in part from Mr. Meachum's language both Mr. Mooney and I quoted. In part also this comes from the ~~simple~~ incredible amount of error and misinformation in Mr. Meachum's 12/3 column and the amount of space required to correct what I did correct. I did not correct him, for example on his mixture of error and propaganda where he referred to Yitzhak Shamir: "... headed the Stern Gang ... responsible for the massacres of innocent Arabs. Dead Palestinian babies ... are no novelty to Shamir, scheduled again to become Israel's prime minister." The Stern Gang itself, in Meachum's flaunting of ignorance, he described as "pro- Israel. It in fact preceded establishment of the State of Israel and Shamir not only didn't head it - he didn't even belong to it.

In his propagandist's approach Mr. Meachum, instead of referring to "territory" Israel captured in war, war caused only by its neighbors' refusal to acknowledge its existence and their efforts to exterminate it, he referred to "lands." In the plural and in that usage lands is synonymous with countries, and in that sense I stated that Israel had not "swept up" those lands. In the same sentence, as Mr. Mooney quotes it, I followed immediately with, nothing omitted in quotation, "the small areas of territory involved are both the territory from which Jews come and was to have been made into Israel after World War I." I am correct in this in that the territories not part of Israel as approved by the United Nations that Israel took by war are both small and part of the original territories of the Jews, from which they also were driven by wars. This is ~~is true~~ ^{the Golan Heights} the Golan Heights, which Mr. Mooney mentions as "Syrian clear as can be." If Mr. Mooney will look again at the British map which accompanied my letter of 11/23/85 he will see that ~~it~~ ^{the Golan Heights} was to have been made part of Israel after the first World War and that instead Britain ceded it to the French mandate in 1923, which later became the State of Syria.

Mr. Mooney's formulation is: "Israel is a creation of the United Nations in 1948." I suggest that instead he consider that what the United Nations did is recognize what Jews had already established as their State of Israel by force of arms and against all the Arab lands, outnumbered by about 200 to 1, In this the United Nations actually reduced the territory of Israel, as established in that struggle.

Mr. Mooney is correct in stating that Israeli construction and settlement on what is today known as "the West Bank" was "directly contrary to the U.S. policy," but at the Camp David agreement negotiated by Jimmy Carter between Israel and Egypt, Israel did not agree to U.S. policy and thereafter did not violate the agreement. The fact remains, regardless of what may be the policy of any United States government at any time, that "the West Bank" was taken by force of arms by Jordan and, historically, is Judea, from which comes the name Jews, and Samaria, and these small areas were to begin with taken by force of arms from the Jews.

Aside from the historical fact that these places and the Golan are Jewish, the real fact is that if they are not under Israeli control Syrians, Jordanians or Arab terrorists can fire artillery from that that could wipe out cities on the Israeli coastline and even hit ships at sea, the width of Israel without them is that narrow.

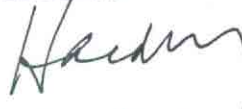
Once the Jews were driven out of their ancient land and Arabs for ^{centuries} ~~centuries~~ occupied it, two peoples can make legitimate claims to that land. It is, as ^{Dr.} Meachum pretends is not true, quite complicated and various rights can be asserted. The solution after the first World War was to create two states from the Palestine territory, the Arab state of Trans-Jordan, or Palestine across the Jordan ^{river}, and what the statesmen did not live up to, Israel was to have been the smaller portion that remained of ~~the~~ the Palestine territory. Moreover, aside from historical justice, in both World Wars Palestinian Jews fought heroically with British forces, as is well documented and, by those of us old enough, remembered. This cannot be said of Arabs so many of whom sided with the Germans, notoriously with the Nazis, from the Grand Mufti down.

Mr. Mooney's ~~points~~ reasons for stating that the so-called PLO has none of the characteristics of a government to be recognized are quite correct and it has none of these needed characteristics. I would like to add another consideration, that when it cannot even control itself and despite Mr. Meachum's propaganda is directly responsible for truly inhuman terrorism, it does not even deserve to be considered as the candidate for head of any state.

Israel did offer a "West bank" compromise, accepted by some Arabs, many of whom were soon assassinated by the extremists of the PLO, self-government by Arabs within it. Instead the PLO adheres to the stated policy of driving all Jews into the sea or a policy of extermination. How can anyone expect the State of Israel to recognize ~~it~~ ~~them~~ - even if they were today to say they abandon this holocaust policy, the policy with which it has lived and controlled its minions from the ~~very~~ outset. The stated reason for U.S. refusal to recognize the PLO is this ~~is~~ PLO policy.

For those of your readers who want a better understanding of the complicated and dangerous situation in that strategically important part of the world, Mr. Mooney's is a fine contribution that I, personally, welcome and thank him for.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg