

## Peace, not suicide 8/29/88

Roy Meachum, and other critics of Israel, would like to make the solution to the Palestinian problem seem simple and clear cut. "Simply withdraw the occupational forces and allow the Palestinians to set up their own state," they so innocently suggest, "and then everyone can live in peace and harmony."

Contrary to her critics' accusations, Israel wants more than anyone to rectify the Palestinian problem and live in peace and harmony with her neighbors. But she has been duped enough times to see through the screen of sweet-sounding solutions.

The truth of the matter is that the Palestinians at this time can not be divorced from their self-claimed leaders, the PLO, Israel's outspoken enemy. The PLO formally states in its constitution that its goal is to drive the Jewish state out of the Mid-East. It

states that the "liberation of Palestine is a national duty and aims at the elimination of Zionism in Palestine (article 15)," "the partition of Palestine in 1947 and the establishment of the state of Israel are entirely illegal, regardless of the passage of time (article 19)," and that "Jews do not constitute a single nation with an identity of its own; they are citizens of the states to which they belong (article 20)."

It is the PLO that offers to fill the vacuum left by Jordan's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza. For Israel to sit back and allow this to occur, would be equivalent to the U.S. inviting Iranian Shiite terrorists to set up their headquarters in Cleveland.

Peace and harmony, yes! Suicide and self-destruction, no!

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