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**Who is the blame?**

One aspect of Mr. Meachum's interpretation of events in the Middle East that bothers many people is that he lays all the blame for the various kinds of insanity that take place there on Israel. He does not seem to understand that there is an important moral difference between an aggressor and a counter aggressor. When the tiny state of Israel came into existence, Golda Meir spoke to the Arabs, "You have fought your battle against us in the United Nations; the United Nations — the majority of the countries in the world — have had their

say. The Partition plan is a compromise: not what you wanted, not what we wanted. But let us now live in friendship and peace together." Immediately after the state was established, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq attacked simultaneously; what we have since is a continuation of that conflict. Every action that Israel has taken has been in response to an Arab aggression. Who can imagine the tragedies that would have followed if Israel did not follow its policies of retaliation?

When the Arabs attacked the Maalot school and 21 children were killed, a new low in military morality had been reached. This was an Israeli problem. It is no longer just an Israeli problem; with the recent attacks on Rome, Austria and Greece it has become a world problem.

Where ever in the course of history have women and children and non-combatants of countries uninvolved in a conflict been murdered — not as accidents of war — but on purpose? According to reports, similar attacks in the major cities of the world are planned. Palestinian leaders who are suspected of being willing to talk to Israelis are murdered. How can one deal with monstrous fanatics whose morals are so foreign to our own? The world must unite in its vigilance against terrorists and nations who support terrorists. The United Nations, for the first time, issued a proclamation against terrorists, at last recognizing the problem. Mr. Meachum says: Let us lay down our arms against terrorists and give peace a chance. Sadly, there will be no peace until, as Golda Meir said in 1948, "in a nutshell, peace is, and always has been, dependent entirely on one thing: the Arab leaders must acquiesce in our being here." It looks like the conflict has been enlarged by the P.L.O., and the peoples of the world of any age, sex or country can be endangered. The solution seems a long way off.

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