7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
3/10/89

Mr. Victor Navasky
The Nation
72 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y. 10011

Dear Mr. Navasky,

Consistent with what The Nation has been saying Fred Halliday says (3/20/89, p. 376), "... In November the P.L.O. unequivocally accepted the right of Israel to exist..."

I believe this is not true, much as I'd like to believe it.

There was the PLO meeting in North Africa before the famous and intendedly misleading Arafat statement under a combination of persuasion and compulsion. From the reporting I saw and recall the body itself took no such position and made no such statement. It could not with any meaning because it violates their charter.

Then, finally, Arafat mumbled a few words that the Reagan administration and many others, including those with your beliefs, said meant he had recognized the right of Israel it exist.

I saw that several times on TV and read what I could and at no point did he from these sources say what so widely he is said to have said. I presume it is this to that Halliday refers when he refers to the organization.

Arafat, in what I saw and read, did not mention the State of Israel. He referred to peoples. The only state he referred to is one that does not exist, Palestine.

So, I'd much apprecate a copy of whatever it is The Nations says is this unequivocal recognition of the right of the State of Israel to exist. No Arab leader has survived even the suspicion of extending such a recognition. Whatever it might mean today.

Maybe there is one I am not aware of. But if there isn't, I suggest that you ought be trying to correct what you've been saying and readers getting it from you have been believing.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg