

of them—or their lack of scientific discipline, may have a great deal to offer. This is all to the good. But why stop at psychoanalysts? How about social workers, who are also in the day-to-day business of trying to understand and modify behavior? Although their terminology is not as exotic as that of the analysts, I can assure you that they are just as biased, and furthermore, they outnumber psychoanalysts about 50 to 1.

And finally, let us not forget the poets. Perhaps in the last analysis it may very well be the rare insight possessed only by some future poet which will unlock a few of the mysteries of human behavior.

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### Palestine Refugee Problem

Wendell Cleland, in his review of Lengyel's *The Changing Middle East* [*Science* 132, 614 (1960)] cites Lengyel's failure to mention the assassination of Count Bernadotte as an example of pro-Israel bias. The assassination of Count Bernadotte, for which the small and dissident Stern group was held responsible, was abhorred and condemned by the government and people of Israel. The group was forcibly disbanded immediately afterwards. The military action of the Irgun Zvi Leumi (Etzel) at the village of Dir Yassin, near Jerusalem, took place before Israel existed as a state. Both of these terrorist groups during the British mandate refused to accept the discipline or the democratic will of the Jewish community of Palestine, expressed through its national council and defense group, Haganah. To hold Israel responsible for these two actions, condemned by the Jewish authorities, population, and defense forces, is certainly unjust. Moreover, this action at Dir Yassin was the only action of its kind conducted by any Jewish group, dissident or otherwise; hence, the expression "the massacres of Arab villagers which created the refugee problem" is a distortion.

The fact is that the Dir Yassin incident did not create the Palestine Arab refugee problem, nor the problem of the 450,000 Jewish refugees who fled from the Arab states (a problem which Cleland significantly fails to mention). Both of these refugee problems were the direct outcome of the Arab invasion of Palestine in 1947-1948 in violation of the United Nations Partition Decision of 29 November 1947. Had this invasion not taken place, had the Arab command not issued instructions to the



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Palestine Arabs to evacuate the designated battlefield, and had these Arabs listened to Jewish appeals to stay put, as those who chose to remain and are today free citizens of Israel did, no Palestine Arab refugee problem would today exist.

Cleland's phrase "or the ignoring [by Israel] of United Nations' resolutions looking toward a settlement" make strange reading in the light of the fact that the two basic resolutions, the U.N. Partition Decision and the Armistice Agreements between Israel and each of the Arab states, entered into under United Nations auspices, have been violated by the Arabs since 1947. No United Nations resolution has been violated by Israel. The Armistice Agreements were designed by their architects as a bridge to peace, and they have the inbuilt provision that the two sides will sit together and amicably resolve still outstanding problems. The Arabs have refused to sit with any Israel delegation to discuss these problems but instead have resorted to maritime blockade, economic boycott, infiltration, and armed attack and have waged war by other means. In the United Nations resolutions, return of the Palestine Arab refugees is made conditional on the willingness of the Arabs to live in peace and on the practicability of the return. The Arabs have expressed the opposite of such willingness and by their belligerence have made their return impractical. Not Israel but the Arab states have violated even this resolution. The very bias that Cleland claims to find exhibited by the author of *The Changing Middle East* is, unhappily, displayed by his own comments.

YAAKOV MORRIS

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Morris's repudiation of the actions of the Stern Gang and the Irgun Zvi Leumi are welcome. But the general opinion is that the State of Israel did not take sufficient action to redeem the bad situation these bandits caused. On the contrary, Israel has accepted every advantage she got from their criminal actions.

As for why the Arabs evacuated their homes, the situation certainly was chaotic, but there is little doubt, if any, that the evacuation was sparked by the Dir Yassin massacre, which occurred five weeks before any of the Arab states sent their forces into Palestine—a move made to preserve order in the vacuum created by the British withdrawal on 14 May 1948.

As to Morris's statement that "no United Nations resolution has been violated by Israel," the facts are quite the opposite. Three of the United Nations resolutions of 1947 and 1948 are

still being ignored, in whole or in part.

1) The boundaries set in the original resolution of 1947, which would require Israel to return to the Arabs 22 percent of her present territory occupied during the fighting, but of which Israel has declared she will yield absolutely none. The implication that the Armistice Agreements of 1949 confirm these boundaries is quite unjustified, as the Egypt-Israel Agreement, article V, paragraph 2, reads, "The Armistice Demarcation Line is not to be construed in any sense as a political or territorial boundary, and is delineated without prejudice to rights, claims and positions of either Party to the Armistice as regards ultimate settlement of the Palestine question." If Israel holds that the armistice boundaries are unchangeable, then the armistice continues, and that the war is only in suspension, with no peace in sight.

2) The right of the refugees to opt whether they will return to their homes and property or accept compensation. The option has been denied, except in a limited number of cases where a choice was allowed in order to reunite families. Morris's statement that the Arabs "by their belligerence have made their return impractical" would seem to be related to the haste of the government of Israel to bring in a million Jews from other countries since 1949 in order to occupy the Arab lands and make the return to the owners impossible.

3) The international status of Jerusalem. Israel has totally ignored this resolution, has incorporated parts of this area in her state, and has declared Jerusalem her capital. This defiant action on the part of Israel has not been accepted by the United States Government and by certain other members of the United Nations, who refuse to acknowledge Jerusalem as the capital and still maintain their embassies at Tel Aviv. Any official negotiations between the U.S. embassy and the Israeli Foreign Office have to take place in Tel Aviv, or outside the international zone.

The other occupant of the Jerusalem zone is Jordan, and Jordan will not agree to negotiate evacuation as long as Israel publicly proclaims her right to Jerusalem, contrary to the United Nations resolution.

There is no question that the situation in Palestine is becoming more and more complicated, and it seems to me that the burden of proof as to rights there lies distinctly on those whose invasion of the country, previously a peaceful land, brought on all the troubles.

W. WENDELL CLELAND  
*American University,  
Washington, D.C.*

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