

EGYPT's former Foreign Minister reveals his peoples 'real' feelings of the Israeli treaty

The Fahmy Solution: A two-year UN trusteeship for Palestine

IN this, the third and final part of the Fahmy-Bruzonsky interview, Egypt's former Foreign Minister, Ismail Fahmy, puts forward his suggestion for a lasting solution to the Palestinian problem.

Speaking to the *Saudi Gazette's* Washington correspondent, Mark Bruzonsky, the formerly publicity-shy Fahmy also gives a frank appraisal of what is going wrong in Mid-east politics.

This is the first full-length interview which Fahmy has given since his resignation.

● Bruzonsky: Are you afraid that after this treaty — after Egypt has opted out of this conflict — that the Israelis may look for excuses for further expansion?

■ Fahmy: You see, Israeli expansion could be carried out in different ways — physically, through war and armed conflict, from time to time, is only one way. And history taught us that they can create the conditions, the explanations, the atmosphere and the press propaganda to justify that what they took was in self-defence.

Or they can expand by complete penetration through slogans like "peace," "open frontiers," "joint projects." This is the new vocabulary we are hearing all the times.

● But it's not unwarranted penetration if Egypt welcomes these things, welcomes open-borders, welcomes joint projects. It's not Israeli expansion, it's something that the Egyptians — or at least some of the Egyptians — desire.

■ Yes, but, you know...I don't believe that the Egyptians are welcoming this. I differ with you completely with what you are saying.

I am completely sure that all Egyptians, if they understood exactly what's

going to happen, would never have accepted it. And the future will show you.

● What do you expect when the autonomy negotiations begin? Do you expect them to drag on for months, or to break down or what?

■ This is a non-starter, the whole process for the Palestinians, because it was based already on Begin's plan. This means, as you will see, that the Israelis will try to change the demographic composition of the West Bank and Gaza and they'll try to erect a massive number of new settlements. And this is why the framework which was agreed upon at Camp David, is a non-starter. And this is why it is rejected by all Arab countries, without a single exception.

● What about Sudan, Oman...?

■ No exception. I don't count those countries. Go to Sudan yourself. Walk in the street. Speak to the people of Sudan, the responsible people, they will tell you exactly this. Go and see.

My view is that if the Israelis who claim that they are just and fair and believe in international law and common sense, are sincere to profit from the new atmosphere, then I have one simple proposal. No. I formally propose — if I can propose anything formally — that a UN trusteeship for Palestine, namely the West Bank and



Gaza, be set up for two years.

● You don't seriously think the Israelis are interested in such a proposal, do you?

■ I said before, if they are serious, if they are interested in peace, in human rights, in justice, in international law, what is wrong with the UN having a trusteeship of Palestine and after two years there will be elections under international supervision?

We give to the Palestinians — like anybody else — the right to say yes or no about their statehood, about their new state. And I may add, to assure the Israelis of their own security.

I further propose that the new Palestine state, once it is established, declares its neutrality completely — a neutral, another Switzerland.

● No army, at least not a large one?

■ A security force composed of, let us say, 50,000. A security force to observe its own territory and frontiers and so on. After that, whether this new Palestine state would like to have a linkage with the Jordanians, it's OK, it's up to them.

If they want to have links with Israel it's up to them. After all, the Palestinian original position is that they are ready to live with Israel — Christ-

ians, Muslims and Jews under one roof. So, they are not very bad people, the Palestinians!

But I make this concrete proposal so that if the Israelis are really honest they would have no fear of international trusteeship.

And the Americans and the Russians and the French would serve on the Board of Transition too — the five permanent members. Anybody whom the Israelis want is also OK.

● Let me ask you about Arab politics. Many of the leaders of the Arab states — prime ministers, kings — have declared that the leaders of Egypt who have entered this treaty with Israel are "traitors." Do you share that view?

■ No. You see, I believe every politician takes decisions for one reason or another and tries hard to justify his position. And it's very rare that statesmen declare they are wrong. But calling people bad names is not my way — every politician takes his decisions according to his own circumstances.

History will judge if, for example, all the Arabs are wrong and President Sadat is correct. Nobody can judge this now. The future will judge.

● You are busy writing your memoirs. What are you trying to accomplish? ■ I will try as fair and honestly as possible to put on record my views and to try to straighten many misconceptions. This I will do at the proper time and for the sake of Egypt and for the sake of history at large.

President Carter and his administration were committed throughout 1977 to approach the Mid-east crisis in its totality and they refused all efforts to take any new steps like the Kissinger policy. Vance was convinced all parties must be there at Geneva when the process of contact with the PLO had already started.

But now a Palestinian state will not emerge unless either the geopolitics of the area changes again or the Arabs use force to bring it about. But I prefer international efforts with massive support from the American presidency.

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