

# THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

Wednesday, December 1, 1976

## OPINION AND COMMENTARY

### Readers write

### Mideast differences

I am writing this letter concerning your article entitled "Israel rushes to calm West Bank after flare-up."

In this article you spoke of the problems of the Jews who are living in and around Hebron. You stated that political sources point out that the difficulties that the Jews are having in their attempts to live among Arabs would have been obviated had the Jewish settlers in Hebron not received political support during the past eight years. You neglected to mention in your article that it probably would have been much easier had the Arabs not massacred a large settlement of Jews in 1929 who were living in Hebron. If those Jews and their descendants were alive today, there would be a balanced population.

It is a well-known fact that it is difficult for any minority group to live among Muslim Arabs. Although minorities are tolerated, from time to time, massacres, expulsions, and degrading, humiliating experiences occur.

I have no doubt that had Hebron not been part of occupied Israel, the raid and destruction of the Torahs in the Temple of the cave of the burial site of the Patriarch Abraham would have been not destruction of Torahs, but the massacre of those one thousand Hebron Jews.

Boston Yale J. Berry

Having viewed the Middle East conflict from the advantage of a job with military intelligence, I am deeply concerned about the overly heavy support we are giving Israel.

I know of no other instance where the United States has supported a country with such neglect for its own security, defense, and economic future. In 1973, for example, we stripped some of our own military units of tanks and equipment to give to Israel. President Ford's recent arms agreement will equip the Israeli soldier with our most advanced weapons even before our own soldiers have such equipment. Yearly, Israel is given billions of American tax dollars. Our politicians have been emotionally wooed to be pro-Israel.

Such policy has cost us oil shortages, high prices, loss of trade in American industry, and loss of the new jobs this trade would have created. Surprisingly, our anti-Arab sentiment has in no way hurt the Arab nations, only ourselves. It is our privilege to aid countries with whom we are allied and friendly, but it is pure ignorance and neglect to give such aid at the expense of our own country's welfare.

Elsah, Ill.

W. E. Stillman

Permit me to comment on Mark Bruzonsky's recent commentary on the Mideast. Mr. Bruzonsky strove mightily to write a balanced opinion, but just a cursory expansion of some of the facts he alluded to should bring the matters central to a Mideast peace back into proper focus.

It is well that he mentioned the UN partition plan of 1947. However, the majority UN support for that plan notwithstanding, it can very persuasively be argued that that plan was a blatant violation of the legal and human rights of hundreds of thousands of non-Jewish Palestinians through aggressive territorial expansions and illegal transfers of populations. These violations began in 1947 and continue down to today.

Are we to now become so self-righteous as to claim that Israelis have the right to violate laws and human rights, and at the same time incongruously deny native Palestinians the desire to reclaim and regain their rights and defiled homeland? If Mr. Bruzonsky indeed means to be so hypocritical and to urge hypocrisy as our national policy, let us at least have the decency to admit to this blatant double standard.

Mr. Bruzonsky then takes the seemingly magnanimous position of saying that Israel ought not open new settlements in occupied Palestine. However, the record of Israeli deprivations of non-Jewish properties is so abundant just in that part of Palestine called Israel that an inventory would fill many issues of the Monitor. Should not Israel (or its chief patron,

the U.S.A.) be at least held accountable for the properties it has stolen and either destroyed or exploited without compensation of the rightful owners?

And finally, one ought to note that the "more militant" Palestinians are distinguished from all other Palestinians and Arabs only by the matter of timing, for all Palestinians are solidly united by the same goal — the restoration of their rights and native country.

Carbondale, Ill.

Harold A. McArthur