

BOOKS

PALESTINIAN IMPASSE: ARAB GUERRILLAS and INTERNATIONAL TERROR

Edited by **LESTER A. SOBEL**

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Another useful reference book is now available on the Arab-Israeli quagmire. It is part of the "Facts on File" series dealing with the Middle East, which in the past has provided volumes covering the Middle East situation through March 1974.

This newest volume covers the decade 1967 through 1977, with particular emphasis on the growth of Palestinian nationalism and the rise of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The chronological discussion opens with Israeli Interior Minister Moshe Shapiro's February 28, 1968, designation of the territories occupied in the Six-Day War as "militarily occupied" rather than "enemy", and concludes with the March 29, 1977,

Palestine National Council 15-point political declaration in Cairo.

A short introduction provides a brief history of Palestine and uses Congressional testimony from late 1975 to present both the Palestinian and Israeli views of the Palestinian problem. There is an index facilitating a name and subject approach to research in addition to the chronological presentation.

This book's failing is in its few omissions. All the major events of the decade covered as reported in the newspapers of the time are there, but important events which subsequently became known are sometimes lacking. And once in a while a major item is missing. For instance, no mention is made of the meetings in Paris between PLO representatives and members of the Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace; of the attempt by the PLO in November 1976 to open a PLO Washington office and begin a PLO-U.S. dialogue; of President Carter's advocacy of a "Palestinian homeland" on March 16th, 1977; or of the PLO's becoming a full member of the Arab League during 1976. Because the book is mainly compiled from "Facts on File's" weekly reports on world affairs, it tends to highlight the main events in the headlines and not some of the more significant events providing the backdrop. As for the exclusion of major events — such as the last two examples mentioned — that is always what must be expected when a general news organization compiles a reference book on a specific theme.