



' DR. MAKSoud SPEAKS IN DETROIT '

Celebrating the graduation of our Arab university students, on the evening of June 9, the AAUG (Association of Arab University Graduates) presented an outspoken and distinctive writer and political commentator from the Arab World, Dr. Clovis Maksoud.

Putting things in perspective, as he is noted for, Dr. Maksoud emphasized to the audience that the students' graduation was just the start of the long road the Arabs will lead toward their unity and prosperity.

After mentioning the importance of the scientific dimension and the humanization of it -- our basic need, then, in the Arab world, is for a strong intellectual and technological movement which would be able to face the very advanced and organized Israeli society and its dominant publicity.

Maksoud reiterated that there exists within the Arab world three vitally intrinsic forces that are the strongest and most powerful channels through which to direct our energy and resources, giving our full protection.

First, petroleum is our most natural possession that very clearly symbolized ~~to the~~ world our national strength during the last oil embargo. Although we are a rich Arab nation, "we are still a nation of poor people". We should invest our riches in our own land, making opportunities for our people to enjoy our riches, establishing an economic unity that would put us very rapidly among the advanced nations.

Secondly, the dilemma which the Arabs feel -- the Arab diplomacy about the Palestinian people -- because Palestine is part of the Arab world and the Palestinians are the victims of the Zionists whose resistance represents the force and dynamicity of the Arab world.

He emphasized that the Palestinian people with their distinctive unity and national right to self-determination and their struggles and sacrifice are hammering the Zionist society, not only militarily, but also in their scientific and technological strength; protecting the Arab world as a whole from the expansion and danger

of the Zionist movement.

So, we have to choose, as human beings, between the Zionist society which represents a negative institutionalized movement towards human alienation and dehumanization based on race and religion, or the "Palestinian Revolution" which is trying to liberate our people (and also the Jewish people) from the negative society by establishing a democratic state in Palestine where all religions and races can co-exist as one people, having one loyalty which is Palestine and its democracy. We must, as Arabs who are aware or want to be aware, discuss all the issues and problems in our society -- we do not want cover-ups.

Dr. Maksoud went on to say that the Israelis are fighting us not only militarily, but culturally and humanistically in our own land. Like in Lebanon, the Zionists are not only trying to break the Palestinian resistance militarily, but also to show the world, by their strong propaganda, that the Arabs cannot co-exist among themselves, so Israel can instate and enforce her own laws and rules!

Israel wants to conquer the Palestinian resistance militarily, ideologically, and through intense propaganda... so Israel's position in the upcoming U.S. election would be strengthened to have more military and financial aid added to the "carte blanche" given to her by 76 senators to "go ahead with her outrageous policy," not even caring for the decisions of the United Nations.

Knowingly, he said, the U.S. ambassador has stated that the U.S. will stop all aid to all the world if the U.N. is going to take any decisions to expel Israel from its body, giving Israel the green light in its expansion and hostile existence.

The Zionists are trying to distort our image, trying to weaken our self-assurance and are trying to conquer us with their technology and planned inhumane policies. But we will not submit. We now are aware of ourselves, our existence, our force and power which is our unity -- our Palestinian struggle and economic ability.

He ended his speech by saying to the university graduates and all our people that our road is clear now. Our road is not easy, but we have decided -- because we choose to live and be alive.

- Michel Madback