

DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE TO ISRAEL

by

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Synopsis of a Statement

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**WE ARE FIGHTING TODAY TO CREATE THE NEW PALESTINE OF TOMORROW – A UNIFIED & DEMOCRATIC NONSECTARIAN PALESTINE IN WHICH CHRISTIAN, MOSLEM & JEW WORSHIP, WORK & ENJOY EQUAL RIGHTS.**

**THIS IS NO UTOPIAN DREAM OR FALSE PROMISE, FOR THE PALESTINIANS HAVE ALWAYS LIVED IN PEACE – MOSLEMS, CHRISTIANS AND JEWS IN THE HOLY LAND.**

It is indeed an honor and a pleasure to have been able to address the Young Democrats Convention. Youth is inevitably receptive to fresh ideas and is emboldened to take attitudes and policies usually futuristic, in other words, relevant to the future.

The Middle East crisis has agitated and continues to agitate man's conscience everywhere and elicit his deep concern. Hence, communication of our position is a basic necessity for an insightful understanding and deeper comprehension of the problem of the Middle East.

I. The primary cause for the continued restlessness in the Middle East is that the Palestinian people have been forcibly evicted and displaced from their homeland by a deliberate process of Zionist colonization in the area. This led to the emergence in Palestine of two fundamental human political abnormalities; (1) an exclusive Jewish ghetto garrison and state and (2) a Palestinian people evicted into refugee camps and condition of displacement.

As long as these two abnormalities remain mutually exclusive, the Middle East will remain crisis prone.

The Palestinian people and the Palestinian Resistance movement have submitted a plan for purposive and continued peace through the normalization of the situation. It runs as follows:

The wrong that has been inflicted on the Palestinian people should be redressed without necessarily inflicting wrong on those who have inflicted the wrong upon them. Translated into concrete structure, the Palestinian Resistance proposes the emergence of a democratic, secular, bi-lingual state in Palestine to replace the two abnormalities. This means also that all the people who constitute the Israel of today will be co-citizens of a state with the Palestinian Arabs who would, by this formula, have achieved their inalienable rights of self-determination.

It is secular in the sense that citizenship will be determined not by the criteria of racial or religious affiliation, but by the democratic criteria of belonging to the state.

This solution has the long-range advantage of freeing the Palestinians from the torment, anguish and the economic and psychological misery of displacement and exclusion from their homeland. It will also have the inevitable result of liberating the people of the Jewish faith in the area of the torment and anguish that a belief in their permanent exclusiveness is an insurance for survival and self-expression and it cannot be achieved except through Jewish institutionalized alienation. It is this alienation, which is both the philosophic basis of Zionism and of Israel, as well as anti-Semitism that Israel seeks to nourish and perpetuate.

The objectives of the Palestinian Resistance in this respect correspond to the humanist functions that have characterized the de-colonizing process in the Third World and is on the same wave length as those of the authentic urges of the younger generation everywhere to assert the preponderance of human integration over unhealthy racial and religious polarizations.

This futuristic perspective might not have now the opportunity of instant realization, but it is kept as a focus of commitment, particularly among the young in age as well as spirit - it will help rationalize, humanize and normalize the responses and attitudes of all concerned everywhere to the current developments in the Middle Eastern crisis. It will, hard as it may seem now, set in motion corrective forces that will enhance not only the chances for peaceful settlement and co-existence, but will open vistas and opportunities for purposeful and consequential co-discovery. It is in this light that the Arab-Israeli conflict must be treated not exclusively as a dispute in the Middle East, but as a challenge to all those who believe in the necessity, desirability and inevitability of human integration.

II. At this moment the United Nations is seized with the Middle Eastern crisis. The international consensus, as it has emerged in November 1967, by the Security Council, resolution, has been flaunted by Israel's categoric and systematic refusal to implement its operative parts. Instead of withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, Israel has established new settlements (29) in the occupied Arab territories in order to present new facts and thus make it more difficult for the international community to have its will and consensus respected and executed.

Furthermore, Israel has annexed Arab Jerusalem and ex-cathedra declared it part of Israel, thus flaunting a special U.N. General Assembly resolution on Jerusalem which was adopted in 1967. Again Israel has forcibly transferred part of the population of Gaza into EI-Arish area, thus inviting the condemnation of the U.N. Secretary-General six weeks ago. This more recent flaunting of U.N. resolutions, in addition to more than 48 U.N. condemnations of Israel in the past by both the U.N. Assembly and the Security Council indicate a built-in Israeli contempt to the United Nations. And when this is the record of a state-the only state that was given its birth certificate by the United Nations, it behooves the world community to go deeper into the nature of the philosophy, ideology that renders such sustained and continuous contempt for world opinion inherent in the policy structure and behavior of Israel.

III. With an Israeli record replete with deliberate contempt and defiance to all United Nations resolutions pertaining to the Middle East crisis and to the Palestinian question, and with no intention or indication of compliance with them as manifested by

Israel's refusal to answer Ambassador Jarring's questionnaire and in respect to allowing a United Nation committee to investigate the conditions of the Arab population under occupation; Israel proceeds to introduce diversionary issues and employs semantical acrobatics.

Perhaps in this respect the most frequently repeated statement that Israel and the machinery of Zionist propaganda utilizes is "Why don't the Arabs and Israelis sit and negotiate directly?" The employment of the word "direct negotiation" is what I meant by semantical acrobatics, namely, the usage of palatable words to preclude world opinion and concerned opinion from the capacity to expose Israel's record of contempt and defiance to the United Nations and international consensus.

We do not negotiate directly with Israel because of the following reasons:

(a) Because. direct negotiation means Arab consent and lends legitimization to Israel's conquest of Arab territories and to Israel's denial of Palestinian rights. This means that any negotiation with Israel holding Arab territories and denying Palestinian rights will render any minor withdrawal to appear as an Israeli concession and will mean that the Arabs bestow upon Israel rights which the world community and the United Nations deny to Israel.

(b) It will divest the Arabs from eligibility through purposive sharing of international responsibility by giving the clear evidence of a lack of will not only to defend their rights but also to secure them.

(c) Direct negotiation means negotiating at gun point and renders the Arabs participating with Israel in an endeavor of contemptuous defiance and flaunting of the United Nations resolutions and of the United Nations as an embodiment of man's groping for peace and justice.

"Direct negotiation" as employed by Israel is a deliberate strategy of deflecting world opinion and rendering it amenable to gloss over Israeli's record of conquest, aggression and expansion and to gloss over the rights of the Palestinian people and put them into oblivion of history.

IV. In its pursuit to preempt the United States from adopting or pursuing a less biased, a more objective, and if I may say so, a more adequate policy - not to say a more responsible one- Israel has sought to mute dissent to prevent the area of understanding within the United States body politic, through calculated reintroduction of the logic, language of McCarthyite postures of the Cold War era.

It has undertaken to project the need to perpetuate the exclusion of Palestinian rights and the justification of its conquest of Arab territories as a manifestation of a Soviet-American conflict. It has done so in order to arrest and diffuse the growing flow of skepticism concerning Israel's credibility.

It has been trying to generate a climate of hysteria concerning "the fate of the Soviet Jews." Until the veracity and the truth of allegations were seriously disputed and questioned not only by the leadership of the Soviet Jews and by a growing number of European and American distinguished Jewish groups such as the "Jewish Alternatives to

Zionism", but by no less authority than the testimony submitted a week ago to a congressional committee investigating the issue by senior officials of the State Department.

This is to point out that Israel seeks to render the United States not only committed to its survival as a state but that the commitment should be to its objectives in the Middle East which objectives Israel categorically refuses to disclose even to the United States.

V. In conclusion, I would like to thank this convention for having given me an opportunity to communicate the bare outline of an Arab position. I realize that the challenge for the young lies not only in the capacity to learn how to learn, but perhaps in this day and age of rapid changes and transformations, the more difficult task and the more exciting challenge is to learn how to unlearn.

And in this particular issue concerning the Middle East, the process of unlearning encourages you in shedding away many of the Israeli and Zionist assumptions, slogans and distortions. Perhaps the challenge before you on this issue in particular is that the young of America should render the United States immune to the intellectual, diplomatic, and at times, political, terrorism which Israel and the ideologists of Zionism undertake to inflict and engender.

If this immunity is achieved, perhaps not today or tomorrow, but is deemed to be capable of achievement, then you would have helped pilot a program of the youth ambitions of many people in the area, not only among the Palestinian and the Arab people, but among many Israelis such as those who work through the Israeli Human Rights Commission and a growing number of Oriental Jews who have realized that their destiny cannot be democratically enriched except in a genuine state of belonging to the destiny of the Arab nation and not in the racist, exclusivist ghetto that Israeli establishment seeks to perpetuate and expand.

If we can in Palestine rebuild an experiment in human integration instead of the edifice of "Jewish" alienation, then we would have made out of the Palestine problem not a problem to the people of Palestine, but a serious problem to the remaining pockets of obsolete and medieval ideologies and policies such as those of Israel and the anti-Semitism together.

There are the options and it is for you to study, ponder and, hopefully, accept.