

Rabbi's
copy

WHAT SHOULD THE AMERICAN JEW THINK ABOUT ISRAEL TODAY?

Based on a High Holiday Sermon by Rabbi Dr. Herbert M. Baumgard,
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MANY OF YOU KNOW FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE THAT WHEN A PERSON VISITS ISRAEL FOR THE FIRST TIME, HE INEVITABLY WINDS UP AT THE "YAD V'SHEM," THE MEMORIAL TO THE SIX MILLION JEWS KILLED IN THE HOLOCAUST. ONE CANNOT UNDERSTAND MODERN ISRAEL, UNLESS HE SEES IT AS THE EXTENSION OF THE STORY OF THE HOLOCAUST.

THE HOLOCAUST ITSELF IS TOO OVERPOWERING FOR ANY OF US TO COMPREHEND. THAT IS WHY THE STORIES OF INDIVIDUALS OR SINGLE EVENTS SOMETIMES GIVE US A COMPREHENSIBLE HANDLE. SUCH A STORY CONCERNS THE SHIP CALLED THE STRUMA. THE STRUMA WAS AN UNSEAWORTHY CATTLE-BOAT WHICH SET SAIL FROM A ROMANIAN BLACK SEA PORT (CONSTANZA) IN DECEMBER OF 1941. THE STRUMA WAS LADEN WITH JEWISH REFUGEES TRYING TO GET TO PALESTINE. ARRIVING IN ISTANBUL, THE REFUGEES APPLIED TO THE BRITISH CONSULATE THERE FOR ENTRY VISAS INTO PALESTINE. THE BRITISH, WHO WERE THE MANDATE POWER OVER PALESTINE, BUT WHO WERE BOWING TO THE ARABS, DENIED THE VISAS TO THE DESPERATE REFUGEES. THE TURKS, WHO AS MOSLEMS WERE SYMPATHETIC TO THE ARABS, TURNED THE STRUMA BACK INTO THE BLACK SEA WHERE IT DRIFTED AND WAS BUFFETED BY SEVERE WEATHER. FINALLY, THE EXCUSE FOR A VESSEL SANK WITH ITS 769 PASSENGERS. 767 DROWNED. ONLY TWO OF THEM SURVIVED. AS A TOKEN OF CONSOLATION, THE BRITISH, ALWAYS GENTLEMANLY, ADMITTED THESE TWO TO ISRAEL.

BY SUCH SURVIVORS WAS THE STATE OF ISRAEL POPULATED.

OVER THE PAST FORTY YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE, THE STATE OF ISRAEL HAS MADE MOST OF US AMERICAN JEWS VERY PROUD INDEED. REMEMBER THE 1948 WAR OF INDEPENDENCE? WE WONDERED HOW IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR THE VASTLY OUTNUMBERED AND POORLY EQUIPPED KIBBUTZ DWELLERS TO DRIVE BACK THE REGULAR ARMIES OF FIVE ARAB NATIONS. REMEMBER THE SO-CALLED "SIX DAY WAR" IN 1967? WHEN NASSER ASSEMBLED HIS ARMIES AND HUNDREDS OF TANKS IN THE SINAI AND CLOSED THE STRAITS OF TIRAN TO ISRAELI SHIPPING, WE WERE ~~HAPPILY~~ AMAZED THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE ABLE TO DESTROY THE EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE IN ONE DAY. REMEMBER ENTEBBE? A SINGLE ISRAELI PLANE STOLE INTO THE UGANDA AIRPORT AT NIGHT TO SAVE THE PASSENGERS OF A FRENCH COMMERCIAL JET WHICH HAD BEEN HIJACKED BY THE P.L.O. ENTEBBE WAS THE STUFF OF WHICH LEGENDS ARE MADE. AND REMEMBER YOM KIPPUR FIFTEEN YEARS AGO? ^{As American Jews} WE WERE AT SERVICES HERE IN BETH AM WHEN ONE OF OUR YOUTH GROUP ^{WE WERE} MEMBERS, STEVE BITTEL, INFORMED US THAT HE HAD HEARD A RADIO REPORT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ARABS HAD ATTACKED THE ISRAELIS WHILE THEY WERE AT PRAYER IN THEIR SYNAGOGUES. WE MOURNED AS THE EARLY ACCOUNTS OF HEAVY ISRAELI CASUALTIES CAME IN. IN A FEW DAYS WE BEGAN TO FEEL BETTER AS THE STAUNCH ISRAELIS BEGAN TO TURN THE TIDE OF BATTLE AND REESTABLISH THE STAU QUO ON THREE FRONTS. YES, THE ISRAELIS HAVE GIVEN US AMERICAN JEWS MUCH ~~TO BE PROUD OF~~ ^{of which to be proud}

WHEN WE VISIT ISRAEL, WE MARVEL AT THE ONCE MALARIA INFESTED VALLEYS THAT HAVE BEEN DRAINED AT GREAT COST OF LIVES AND MONEY AND MADE INTO FERTILE GARDENS. WE WONDER AT NEW CITIES THAT HAVE BEEN CREATED IN THE DESERT TO ABSORB JEWISH REFUGEES FROM INDIA, FROM ARAB COUNTRIES, FROM POLAND AND FROM ETHIOPIA. WE MARVEL AT HADASSAH HOSPITAL AND OTHER ADVANCED MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS WHICH HELP ARABS AS WELL AS JEWS. WE ADMIRE THE RESEARCH BEING DONE AT WEIZMANN INSTITUTE THAT AFFECTS BOTH AGRICULTURE AND SCIENCE, NOT ONLY IN ISRAEL BUT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. WE ARE DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY AND THE ALLIED EDUCATIONAL SYSEM.

YES, THE ISRAELIS HAVE OFTEN MADE US PROUD TO BE JEWS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ISRAELIS HAVE MADE A FEW MISTAKES, SOME OF THEM REAL BONERS. TEN YEARS AFTER THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, THE LEADERS OF ISRAEL LET THE LEADERS OF FRANCE AND ENGLAND TALK THEM INTO A MARCH ACROSS THE SINAI TO SAVE THE SUEZ CANAL FOR THE WESTERN WORLD. UNDER PRODDING FROM EISENHOWER, THE ISRAELIS HAD TO MARCH ALL THE WAY BACK ACROSS THE SINAI DRAGGING THEIR TAILS BEHIND THEM. IN 1982, THE ISRAELIS INVADED LEBANON TO CLEAN OUT STRONG P.L.O. POSITIONS, BUT THEY DIDN'T STOP UNTIL THEY HAD REACHED BEIRUT. ISRAEL DIDN'T LOOK VERY GOOD ON THE TV FILM CLIPS OF THIS INVASION. THEN, THE ISRAELIS WERE CAUGHT BY SURPRISE BY THE RECENT UPRISING IN THE TERRITORIES AND DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO COPE WITH IT. WE DIDN'T LIKE RABIN'S ORDER TO HIS SOLDIERS TO "BREAK THE BONES" OF THE RIOTERS. WE WERE HORRIFIED BY CERTAIN STORIES SUCH AS THE ONE ABOUT THE ISRAELI SOLDIER WITH A TRACTOR WHO BURIED THREE TAUNTING ARABS ALIVE. FORTUNATELY, THEY WERE LATER SAVED. WE HAVE BEEN CONFUSED BY THESE INCIDENTS AND WE HAVE WONDERED IF THE ISRAELIS HAVE LOST THEIR SENSE OF HIGH PURPOSE. WITH RABBI KAHANE CALLING FOR THE DEPORTATION OF ARABS AND SURVEYS INDICATING THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE MOVING TO THE RIGHT POLITICALLY, WE HAVE BECOME FEARFUL THAT ISRAEL WILL DESTROY ITS DEMOCRACY IN A FIT OF FEAR AND HATRED.

IN THE MIDST OF ALL THIS TURMOIL, SOME OF US HAVE WONDERED WHETHER WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ISRAEL WITH OUR DOLLARS AND A FEW OF US HAVE ACTUALLY USED THE MOST RECENT EVENTS AS A REASON TO CURTAIL OUR GIVING. WHAT SHOULD BE THE RESPONSE OF AMERICAN JEWS TO CURRENT HAPPENINGS IN ISRAEL? ~~THERE IS NO MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION FOR US TO CONSIDER ON THIS YOM KIPPUR.~~

SOME OF MY RABBINICAL COLLEAGUES HAVE UNDERSTOOD THEIR ROLE IN THIS CRISIS TO BE THAT OF MORAL TEACHER TO THE ISRAELIS. THEY HAVE ORGANIZED INTO GROUPS CALLING FOR ISRAELI COOPERATION WITH THE P.L.O. AND CENSURING THOSE ISRAELIS WHO HAVE ACTED RECENTLY WITH "UNJEWISH" VIOLENCE. APPARENTLY THESE RABBIS WANT THE WORLD TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE STILL SOME JEWS WHO KNOW HOW TO BE KIND AND GRACIOUS. AT TIMES, I HAVE BEEN TEMPTED TO JOIN THESE SELF-DESCRIBED PROTECTORS OF THE JEWISH CONSCIENCE, BUT I CONFESS, I CANNOT BRING MYSELF TO DO SO. I HAVE THE FEELING THAT THE SITUATION IN ISRAEL IS SUCH THAT OUR PEOPLE NEEDS LESS LECTURING AND MORE SUPPORT. THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE HAVE TO APPROVE OF EVERYTHING THAT EVERY ISRAELI DOES. I DON'T APPROVE OF EVERYTHING THAT EVERY AMERICAN DOES. SOMETIMES I DISAPPROVE OF WHAT MY NATION DOES, AS IN THE SAD SPECTACLE OF VIET NAM IN WHICH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF HUMAN BEINGS DIED IN VAIN. STILL, I DID NOT GIVE UP ON AMERICA BECAUSE OF VIET NAM, AND I DON'T INTEND TO GIVE UP ON ISRAEL BECAUSE OF CERTAIN PROBLEMS, MANY OF WHICH ARE NOT CAUSED BY THE ISRAELIS BUT WHICH ARE INSTIGATED BY THE ARABS THEMSELVES.

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON IN ISRAEL TODAY, YOU HAVE TO REVIEW THE ENTIRE HISTORIC SITUATION. THE INFITADA, OR UPRISING, MUST BE PLACED IN PERSPECTIVE. TO UNDERSTAND IT WE MUST GO BACK TO PRE-WORLD WAR ONE DAYS WHEN THERE WAS NO EGYPT, NO IRAQ, NO SYRIA, NO JORDAN AS WE KNOW THEM TODAY. THESE AREAS WERE PART OF THE TURKISH EMPIRE AND WITHIN THAT EMPIRE THEY WERE, FOR THE MOST PART, LOOSELY DEFINED PROVINCES.# WE ALL KNOW THAT TURKEY, AS THE ALLY OF GERMANY, WENT DOWN TO DEFEAT IN WORLD WAR ONE, AND THE VARIOUS PARTS OF ITS EMPIRE WERE MANDATED BY THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS TO CERTAIN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY

During the latter part of the almost 300 years of Turkish rule, there were frequent revolts against the Turks. At the outbreak of World War One, Britain made Egypt its protectorate and allowed its independence in 1922.

TO FRANCE AND BRITAIN. ONE BY ONE THESE FORMER TURKISH PROVINCES WERE GRANTED INDEPENDENCE AS ARAB STATES. # ONLY PALESTINE, WHICH HAD A DIFFUSED POPULATION AND LESS OF A DISTINCT CHARACTER, WAS NOT FORMED INTO A STATE. INSTEAD, THE BRITISH WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS ASSIGNED PALESTINE TO BE A HOMELAND FOR THE JEWS. THE ARABS LIKE TO SAY THAT PALESTINE HAD A SWARMING ARAB POPULATION IN THOSE DAYS, BUT TRAVELLERS, HISTORIANS, AND JOURNALISTS WHO VISITED OR LIVED IN PALESTINE SPOKE OF ITS COMPARATIVE DESOLATION. CLARENCE DARROW, THE FAMOUS ATTORNEY, WROTE IN 1923, "PALESTINE IS A LAND OF SAND AND STONES, AND THE STONES ARE THERE TO KEEP THE SAND FROM BLOWING AWAY."

IN RESPONSE TO ARAB PROTESTS ABOUT A JEWISH PALESTINE, THE BRITISH VIOLATED THEIR LEAGUE OF NATIONS MANDATE AND GAVE STILL ANOTHER STATE TO THE ARABS, THIS ONE CARVED OUT OF PALESTINE ITSELF. THIS STATE WAS FIRST KNOWN AS TRANSJORDAN, AND IT CONSISTED OF THE VAST MAJORITY (TWO-THIRDS) OF THE AREA ORIGINALLY DESIGNATED AS A HOMELAND FOR THE JEWS. STILL NOT SATISFIED, THE ARABS PRESSED FOR ALL THE REST OF PALESTINE, AND AFTER WORLD WAR II THE UNITED NATIONS DIVIDED THE SMALL REMAINING PORTION INTO TWO PARTS, ONE FOR THE PALESTINIAN ARABS AND ONE FOR THE JEWS. IN THE END, THEN, THE JEWS WERE OFFERED ONLY A VERY SMALL PART OF THE PALESTINE ORIGINALLY SET ASIDE FOR THEM BY THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS. FOR THIS THE ARABS TELL US THAT WE JEWS MUST FEEL FOREVER GUILTY. &

WE ALL KNOW THAT JEWISH HISTORY BEGINS IN THIS REGION ABOUT 1,000 B.C.E., WHILE ARAB HISTORY DOES NOT BEGIN UNTIL OVER 1,600 YEARS LATER. WHEN THE ARABS FIRST VIOLENTLY CONQUERED THE AREAS NOW KNOWN AS EGYPT, SYRIA, AND IRAQ, THEY CONQUERED STATES RULED BY CHRISTIANS, AND SOMEHOW THE ARABS HAVE NOT FELT GUILTY FOR THE TENS OF THOUSANDS THAT THEY KILLED AT THAT TIME. ## IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEVENTH CENTURY OF THIS ERA, THE ARABS USED THEIR SWORDS TO BECOME MASTERS OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SQUARE MILES FROM INDIA TO AFRICA, AND NOW THEY WANT THE ISRAELIS TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT INHABITING A FEW SQUARE MILES THE SIZE OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY! IT IS SOMETIMES IMPORTANT TO PLACE THINGS IN THEIR HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE.

RETURNING NOW TO THE MODERN SCENE, WE REMEMBER THAT SHORTLY AFTER THE 1947 PARTITION OF THE LAST REMAINING PART OF PALESTINE, THE ARABS ATTACKED THE NEWLY DECLARED JEWISH STATE. SOMEHOW, THE TWO REFUGEES FROM THE SHIP CALLED THE STRUMA, AND OTHERS LIKE THEM, HELD OFF THE ARABS AND A CEASE-FIRE WAS ARRANGED. THE CEASE-FIRE CONFIRMED THE FACT THAT JORDAN HAD CAPTURED EAST JERUSALEM AND THE WEST BANK, THE AREA SET ASIDE FOR THE PALESTINIANS. DURING THE TWENTY YEARS WHEN JORDAN RULED OVER THIS AREA, THE PALESTINIAN ARABS NEVER COMPLAINED AND NEVER TALKED ABOUT WANTING THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROM JORDAN. THE CEASE-FIRE ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT EGYPT HAD CAPTURED GAZA WHILE ISRAEL HAD CAPTURED WEST JERUSALEM AND THE NEGEV. OTHERWISE, THE LINES WERE ROUGHLY WHAT THE PARTITION PLAN HAD PROJECTED.

WE KNOW THAT THE ARABS HAVE MADE A GREAT SHOW ABOUT THE ARAB REFUGEES FROM THIS WAR. THEY DO NOT LIKE TO TALK, HOWEVER, ABOUT THE JEWISH REFUGEES FORCED TO LEAVE ARAB LANDS. THE LARGE CONTINGENT OF IRAQI JEWS, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD LIVED IN IRAQ SINCE 586 B.C.E. OBJECTIVE COUNTS OF THE REFUGEES SHOW THAT THERE WERE ABOUT AN EQUAL NUMBER ON BOTH SIDES. THE ISRAELIS SET BUSILY TO WORK ABSORBING

AS INITIATORS OF THE WAR, THE ARABS ARE REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL WHO HAVE SUFFERED AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE WAR. THE TWO SIDES HAVE TREATED

Syria expelled the French troops in 1945.

Their own refugees much different fashion.

For details see, HISTORY OF THE ARABS, P.K. Hitti, the Macmillan Company, New York, 1951, pp 139 ff.

(x - The Arabs claim that all of the Arabian peninsula is their by divine right. Suppose we Mexicans said the same about Mexico? We have been invaded by a million Latins, especially Colombians, and to think, we didn't even fire a shot! What are the English to say about the Asian invasion of London?

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Since three quarters of the citizens of Jordan are now Palestinians, it is really a Palestinian country)

From ARAB lands

On the other hand

THE JEWISH REFUGEES. THE ONLY ARAB COUNTRY TO OFFER CITIZENSHIP TO THE ARAB REFUGEES WAS JORDAN. ~~TO THIS DAY~~ A PALESTINIAN CAN WORK ALL OF HIS LIFE IN THE OIL FIELDS OF SAUDI ARABIA, AND WHEN HE IS NO LONGER ABLE TO WORK HE IS IMMEDIATELY DEPORTED. THE ARABS LIKE TO IGNORE THE FACT THAT THERE WERE OVER A **HALF** MILLION JEWISH REFUGEES, AND THEY SEEM INCAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING THAT IF THEY HADN'T ATTACKED ISRAEL IN 1948, THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY REFUGEES AT ALL!

King

WE KNOW THAT THE WAR OF 1948, UNFORTUNATELY, WAS NOT THE END OF HOSTILITIES. IF NASSER, THE PRIME MINISTER OF EGYPT, HAD NOT SO DISDAINFULLY CHALLENGED THE ISRAELIS IN 1967, THE ARABS WOULD STILL HAVE THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, AS WELL AS EAST JERUSALEM. INDEED, ISRAEL PLEADED WITH JORDAN NOT TO JOIN THE WAR OF 1967, BUT HUSSEIN PROVED ONCE AGAIN THAT HE CANNOT SEPARATE HIMSELF FROM THE ARAB CONSENSUS. AS A RESULT OF THIS SO-CALLED, "SIX DAY WAR," ISRAEL REUNITED ALL OF JERUSALEM UNDER ITS FLAG, DROVE THE JORDANIANS OUT OF THE WEST BANK, DROVE THE EGYPTIANS OUT OF GAZA AND THE SINAI, AND DROVE THE SYRIAN SOLDIERS OFF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, FROM WHICH VANTAGE POINT THE SYRIANS HAD REPEATEDLY SHELLED THE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE VALLEY.

THE ARABS ACCUSED THE ISRAELIS OF EXPANSIONIST DESIRES, BUT IF THE ARABS HAD NOT INDUCED THE 1967 WAR, ISRAEL WOULD NOT CONTROL ANY OF THE TERRITORIES WHICH ARE IN DISPUTE TODAY! THE ARABS DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THIS, BUT WE JEWS MUST NOT FORGET IT. ISRAEL CONTROLS THE WEST BANK AND GAZA TODAY ONLY BECAUSE IT HAD TO PUSH BACK AN ENEMY CLEARLY SET ON ITS DESTRUCTION. SINCE THE ARABS STILL HAVE NOT ABANDONED THEIR VOW TO DESTROY ISRAEL, ONE WONDERS WHY SO MANY PEOPLE TODAY ARE URGING ISRAEL VOLUNTARILY TO SURRENDER THESE BUFFER LANDS.

BUT LET US CONTINUE OUR BRIEF REVIEW OF ISRAEL'S MODERN HISTORY. AFTER THE 1967 or "SIX DAY WAR," THE ARAB NATIONS MET AT KHARTOUM AND THERE MADE THEIR FAMOUS DECLARATION OF THE THREE "NO'S," "NO PEACE WITH ISRAEL, NO RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL, AND NO NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL."

THE ARAB STRATEGY AFTER 1967 WAS TO CONTINUE A RIGIDLY ANTAGONISTIC STATUS, EMPLOYING TERRORISM CONSTANTLY, WITH THE LOOMING PROSPECT OF ANOTHER WAR. SINCE THE ARAB NATIONS WERE NOT DISPOSED TO NEGOTIATE A PEACE IN WHICH GAZA AND THE WEST BANK MIGHT BE RETURNED TO THEM, IT BECAME NECESSARY FOR ISRAEL TO TRY TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GOVERN THESE AREAS. OCCUPATION BY FORCE OF ARMS IS INEVITABLY A DEGRADING SITUATION. IT IS DEGRADING TO THE CONQUERED BUT ALSO TO THE CONQUEROR.

STILL, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT ISRAEL HAS TRIED TO BE A GENEROUS OCCUPIER. THE EGYPTIANS NOT ONLY REFUSED TO GIVE THE "GAZANS" EGYPTIAN CITIZENSHIP, THEY ALSO WOULD NOT PERMIT THE GAZANS TO ENTER EGYPT FOR EMPLOYMENT. WHEN THE ISRAELIS ~~WRESTED~~ **CAPTURED** GAZA FROM THE EGYPTIANS, LARGE NUMBERS OF GAZANS WERE ENCOURAGED TO FIND EMPLOYMENT IN ISRAEL. PALESTINIAN ARABS IN THE WEST BANK WERE PERMITTED TO WORK EITHER IN ISRAEL OR IN JORDAN. THE CHOICE WAS THEIRS; AND JORDAN, ALTHOUGH A DEFEATED ENEMY WHICH REFUSED TO MAKE A FORMAL PEACE, WAS PERMITTED TO SUPERVISE CERTAIN CIVIL ASPECTS OF THE WEST BANK GOVERNMENT. OBJECTIVE REPORTS DEMONSTRATE THAT UNDER THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION, THE STANDARD OF LIVING, EDUCATION AND HEALTH ROSE SHARPLY.

In many ways the Palestinian nation of Jordan had now expanded or include the West Bank, with Israeli blessings.

I MUST TELL YOU A STORY IN MY EXPERIENCE WHICH ILLUSTRATES WELL, I THINK, THE MANNER IN WHICH THE ISRAELIS HAVE RULED OVER THEIR CONQUERED TERRITORIES. ON ONE OF MY VISITS TO ISRAEL, I SPENT SOME TIME AT AN ISRAELI CHECKPOINT NEAR THE JORDAN RIVER. OVER THIS SMALL BRIDGE WEST BANKERS COULD GO FREELY INTO JORDAN AND RETURN. JORDANIANS COULD GO GO INTO ISRAEL AND RETURN. ON THIS PARTICULAR

(X - If Israel permits another Arab state in the West Bank and Gaza, will that state do as Jordan and Hussein did and join in the next Arab attack on Israel? This question is not considered by those who see another Arab state as a facile answer to the existing problems.)

note -
x x -

Abraham led a group
wandered into the region about
1200 BCE, but the Israelite state was formed under Saul
about 1000 BCE. In the public debate over Israel, some arabs have
claimed that the Canaanites who inhabited the land in pre-
biblical times were really Arabs. This is, of course, not
historical. The Canaanites were progressively challenged
in the ^{late} 2nd century BCE by Phoenicians, Philistines,
Ammonites, Moabites, and Hebrews. In time, the
Israelites became dominant under King Solomon. In 722 BCE
at Solomon's death the Israelite Kingdom split into
two nations, Israel in the North and Judah in the South.
The northern Kingdom was conquered by Assyria in 721 BCE and
Judah was conquered by Babylon in 586 BCE. When Persia
conquered Babylon around 500 BCE, a significant number of Jews
left Babylon ^{returned to} Judah. The Greeks conquered Persia and took over
Judah in the fourth century. ~~Rome took over Judah~~ An independent
Jewish Kingdom was restored in the second century BCE.
Rome took over Judah in the first century and expelled the
rebellious Jews in the second century C.E. (A.D.)

although some Jews, Jewish Christians
and a mixture of many other
peoples was

Ever since Palestine (as the Romans called the area)
was possibly settled. It was part of the Turkish Empire for
three hundred years. It was never again an independent
nation until modern times.

In respect to large Jewish immigration

in the 20th century

Arabs, in the form of nomadic sheep herders (Bedouin)
have moved in and out of the Palestine area on a seasonal
basis, but never came in anything resembling large numbers
until the Islamic invasion of the region in the 7th century. Their
goal, at ~~the~~ displacing Byzantine Christians in most of the nations
of the area and subjugating large numbers of Jews, especially in
places like Iraq (ancient Babylonia) and Egypt - Jews were allowed
to practice their religion but were placed in "dhimmi" status, subject
to special taxes + ~~to~~ denied full participation in the society.
(along with other non-Arabs). The arabs seemed to be much less
interested in Palestine than in Egypt, Syria, + Iraq, + indulged
no substantial government there. Population trends were evaluate
+ fluctuating

OCCASION, I OBSERVED AN ISRAELI SOLDIER EXAMINING AN ARAB TRUCK. THE SOLDIER LOOKED INSIDE AND UNDERNEATH THE TRUCK. WHAT WAS HE LOOKING FOR, I WONDERED? "BOMBS," I WAS TOLD. IN RECENT WEEKS A NUMBER OF BOMBS HAD COME INTO ISRAEL TIED TO THE BOTTOM OF CARS AND ESPECIALLY TRUCKS. THE SOLDIER WAS SATISFIED THAT THIS PARTICULAR TRUCK HAD NO BOMBS, BUT HE HAD FOUND A MECHANICAL PROBLEM ON THE TRUCK, AND I HEARD HIM ADVISE THE ARAB THAT THE TRUCK WOULD BREAK DOWN SHORTLY IF HE DIDN'T GET THE TRUCK FIXED. THE ARAB REPLIED THAT HE DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FIXING A TRUCK AND HE WAS SHORT OF FUNDS TO PAY TO FIX IT. "DON'T WORRY," SAID THE EXAMINING ISRAELI SOLDIER, "I'LL FIX IT FOR YOU." THE NEXT HALF HOUR THE ISRAELI SOLDIER, OUT OF THE GOODNESS OF HIS HEART, WAS UNDER THE TRUCK FIXING IT FOR THE ARAB. OF SUCH STUFF IS THE CRUEL CONQUEROR MADE.

Surprise, ARAB attack in 1973 (the "Yom Kippur" war)

FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER ISRAEL DECLARED ITS INDEPENDENCE, IT CONSTANTLY ASSERTED ITS OPENNESS TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ARABS, BUT THIS POSITION CHANGED SOMEWHAT AFTER THE ~~YOM KIPPUR WAR IN 1973~~. THE YOM KIPPUR WAR DID NOT CHANGE THE MILITARY SITUATION BETWEEN THE ARABS AND ISRAEL, BUT IT DID SUCCEED IN HARDENING ISRAELI ATTITUDES. BECAUSE GOLDA MEIR'S LABOR GOVERNMENT WAS UNPREPARED FOR THE WAR, IT WAS UNSEATED IN THE NEXT ELECTIONS. THE LIKKUD PARTY, WITH ITS HARDER LINE TOWARDS THE ARABS WAS GIVEN POWER FOR THE FIRST TIME. IF PRIME MINISTER SHAMIR IS LESS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE ARABS THAN PERES, THE CURRENT LEADER OF THE LABOR PARTY, THE ARABS CAN BLAME THEMSELVES AND THE YOM KIPPUR WAR FOR TURNING THE ISRAELIS TO THE POLITICAL RIGHT.

THE YOM KIPPUR WAR DID CONVINCED SOME ARABS THAT ISRAEL COULD NOT BE CONQUERED BY FORCE OF ARMS. THE QUESTION FOR THEM NOW BECAME - WHAT STRATEGY OTHER THAN WAR CAN WE USE TO OBTAIN WHAT WE WANT? SADAT, THE PRIME MINISTER OF EGYPT, DECIDED TO BREAK RANKS WITH THE REST OF THE ARAB NATIONS. AFTER SOME BEHIND THE SCENES MEETINGS WITH THE ISRAELIS, SADAT MADE HIS FAMOUS TRIP TO JERUSALEM AND BRILLIANTLY OBTAINED FOR EGYPT THE RETURN OF THE ENTIRE SINAI WITH ITS PRECIOUS OIL. UNFORTUNATELY FOR ISRAEL, SADAT DID NOT TAKE GAZA ALSO. HE WISELY DID NOT SEEK IT, AND ISRAEL WANTED TO PREVENT GAZA FROM BEING USED AS A TERRORIST BASE, AS IT HAD HAD BEEN FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

WE KNOW THAT FOR HIS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH ISRAEL, SADAT WAS IMMEDIATELY CAST OUT OF THE ARAB LEAGUE. IN A FEW YEARS, SADAT MET THE FATE OF ALL OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN WILLING TO TALK TO ISRAEL. HE WAS ASSASSINATED. MEANWHILE, THE REST OF THE ARAB NATIONS CONTINUED TO APPLY THE FORMULA OF THE KHARTOUM CONFERENCE, "NO PEACE, NO RECOGNITION, NO NEGOTIATIONS." THIS MAY HAVE BEEN ALL RIGHT FOR SYRIA AND IRAQ, BUT IT LEFT THE ARABS OF GAZA AND THE WEST BANK IN LIMBO. THESE WERE THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE OF THE ARAB WORLD. THEY WERE EXPENDABLE. THE CURRENT UPRISING IN THE TERRITORIES, MUST BE VIEWED AS THE ATTEMPT OF THESE PEOPLE TO GET THE WORLD'S ATTENTION. UNFORTUNATELY, THEIR PLIGHT IS ALSO INTERWOVEN WITH THE PLIGHT OF ISRAEL, AND THEIR PROBLEM CANNOT BE SOLVED UNTIL ISRAEL'S ~~SAFETY~~ SAFETY IS ASSURED.

WHEN THE PALESTINIAN ARABS BEGAN THEIR ^{current} UPRISING, THEY COULD NOT HAVE HOPED FOR ALL OF THE ATTENTION THAT THE WORLD WOULD GIVE THEM. WOLF BLITZER, THE JERUSALEM REPORTER WHO HAS SPOKEN HERE AT BETH AM, EXPLAINS THIS BY SAYING, "NEWS IS WHERE THE REPORTERS ARE, AND ISRAEL AS A DEMOCRACY HAS PERMITTED MORE REPORTERS THAN ALL THE ARAB COUNTRIES TOGETHER." WHEN INTERVIEWED BY REPORTERS, THE RIOTING PALESTINIANS OFTEN SPEAK OF LIMITED GOALS. "ALL WE WANT," THEY SAY, "IS OUR FREEDOM, OUR HUMAN RIGHTS." THESE ARE MARVELOUS WORDS AND PHRASES, AND EVERY AMERICAN JEW FEELS GUILTY WHEN HE THINKS THAT FOR A MOMENT JEWS HAVE DENIED ANYONE

THEIR RIGHTS OR THEIR FREEDOM. THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER, HOWEVER, IS THAT NO TWO PALESTINIANS SEEM TO AGREE ON THEIR DEFINITION OF THESE TERMS. FOR SOME PALESTINIANS, THEIR FREEDOM MEANS THAT THE ISRAELIS MUST LEAVE ISRAEL ALTOGETHER. FOR OTHER PALESTINIANS, THEIR FREEDOM MEANS THEIR RIGHT TO LIVE IN AN INDEPENDENT ARAB STATE WITH THE JEWS AS MINORITY MEMBERS. IN EVERY ARAB STATE IN WHICH JEWS HAVE BEEN MINORITY MEMBERS, JEWS HAVE BEEN TREATED AS INFERIORS AND COMPELLED TO PAY A SPECIAL PROTECTIVE TAX. FOR EVERY PALESTINIAN WHO WOULD BE SATISFIED MERELY WITH THE RIGHT OF SELF GOVERNMENT, THERE ARE THREE WHO WANT AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY WITH AN ARMY OF ITS OWN. AY, THERE IS THE RUB, THAT ARMY! MANY ARABS AND SOME LIBERAL MINDED ISRAELIS THINK THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO TURN BACK THE CLOCK AND FORGET THAT THE ARABS HAVE BEEN BENT ON THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL. THERE ARE MANY AMERICAN JEWS WHO THINK THAT ARAFAT HAS SUDDENLY CHANGED FROM A TERRORIST AND MURDERER TO A MEEK, COOPERATIVE ALLY.

THIS RABBI JOINS WITH THOSE WHO CONTEND THAT ISRAEL IS QUITE RIGHT IN FEARING THE CONSEQUENCES OF STILL ANOTHER ARMED PALESTINIAN STATE BREATHING DOWN HER NECK. A PRUDENT ISRAELI HAS ONLY TO OBSERVE WHAT IS GOING ON IN LEBANON EVEN TODAY TO HAVE CONCERN ABOUT AN ARMED P.L.O.-CONTROLLED NEIGHBOR. JUST A FEW MONTHS AGO, THE SYRIA SUPPORTED BRANCH OF THE P.L.O. ATTACKED ARAFAT'S PEOPLE IN THE FAMOUS CAMP OF SHATILA AND KILLED WELL OVER A HUNDRED PERSONS. IN THE LAST SEVERAL DECADES, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS HAVE DIED IN LEBANON AS ARAB BROTHERS VIED WITH ONE ANOTHER FOR POWER. MOSLEM BROTHERS IN IRAQ AND IRAN HAVE LEFT A MILLION DEAD IN THEIR MOST RECENT WAR. SYRIA IN 1983 PUT DOWN AN UPRISING IN THE TOWN OF HAMA BY MERCILESSLY KILLING 20,000 OF ITS OWN CITIZENS WITHIN A FEW DAYS. ON THIS SEPTEMBER THE SECOND, THE MIAMI HERALD REPORTED THAT THE IRAQIS USED POISON GAS AGAINST THE KURDS WHO HAVE BEEN SEEKING THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROM IRAQ EVER SINCE THAT COUNTRY WAS FORMED. 100,000 KURDS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO FLEE IN THIS MOST RECENT INCIDENT. HOW MILD THE ISRAELI ACTION AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN RIOTERS SEEMS WHEN COMPARED TO THE WAY IN WHICH THE ARABS TREAT THEIR OWN DISSIDENTS! CAN IT BE THAT THE PALESTINIAN REVOLT CONTINUES ONLY BECAUSE ISRAEL IS NOT FORCEFUL ENOUGH IN SUPPRESSING IT?

ALL OF US ARE ASKING THE QUESTION, HOW IS THE UPRISING IN THE TERRITORIES GOING TO END? IS THERE A WAY OF SOLVING THE CRISIS THAT WILL BE GOOD BOTH FOR THE ARABS AND FOR ISRAEL? SHIMON PERES, HEAD OF THE LABOR PARTY IN ISRAEL, HAD HOPED TO GIVE THESE DISPUTED AREAS TO THE ARABS BY EXTENDING KING HUSSEIN'S POWER BUT RETAINING FOR ISRAEL THE RIGHT TO MILITARY CONTROL OF THE BORDERS. SINCE THE PALESTINIANS HAVE STRESSED THE FACT IN RECENT MONTHS THAT THEY DON'T WANT TO BE RULED BY HUSSEIN, HUSSEIN HAS DECLARED THAT HE IS WITHDRAWING ENTIRELY FROM THE WEST BANK. THIS LEAVES A VACUUM WHICH MANY ARE RUSHING TO FILL. THE P.L.O. IS TRYING TO ORGANIZE LOCAL COMMITTEES TO ADMINISTER THE TERRITORIES. THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS VOWED NOT TO LET THE P.L.O. BUILD ITS POWER BASE IN THIS WAY. GENERAL SHARON, WHO SPEARHEADED THE ISRAELI INVASION OF LEBANON, SEES HUSSEIN'S WITHDRAWAL AS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ISRAEL TO ANNEX STRATEGIC PARTS OF THE WEST BANK. THOSE TO THE POLITICAL RIGHT OF SHARON WANT TO ANNEX ALL OF THE WEST BANK, INCLUDING THE MAJOR CITIES OF NABLUS AND HEBRON, THEREBY CREATING A MAGNITUDE OF POPULATION PROBLEMS FOR ISRAEL. RABBI KAHANE, ON THE FARTHEST RIGHT, WANTS TO DEPORT ALL OF THE WEST BANK ARABS, EVEN, WE MIGHT ADD, AS MOHAMMED, THE GREAT PROPHET, DEPORTED ALL THE JEWISH TRIBES HE CONQUERED IN THE AREA NEAR HIS HOME CITY. (THE JEWS HAD LIVED IN THESE RICH OASES FOR MANY CENTURIES.) #

See p. 117, History of the Arabs, P.K. Hitti

WHAT SHOULD THE AMERICAN JEW THINK ABOUT ISRAEL, P. 7

THERE ARE MANY WHO SEE WHAT IS GOING ON IN ISRAEL TODAY AS MORE OF AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CHAOS THAN FOR PEACE. A PEACE PARLEY REQUIRES TWO RESPONSIBLE PARTIES WHO ARE ABLE TO COMPROMISE AND WHO ARE ABLE TO ENFORCE THEIR DECISIONS. EVEN IF THE ISRAELIS WOULD SIT DOWN WITH ARAFAT, HE HAS NOT DEMONSTRATED THAT HE CAN CONTROL OTHER FACTIONS IN THE P.L.O., OR THAT HE WILL BE SUPPORTED BY HIS ENEMY, SYRIA, OR BY KING HUSSEIN WITH WHOM ARAFAT FOUGHT A VIOLENT WAR SHORT YEARS AGO. ISRAEL COULD TURN OVER THE WEST BANK TO ARAFAT AND FIND THAT IT HAS ONLY MADE POSSIBLE ANOTHER INTRA-ARAB WAR.

THIS RABBI HAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED HIMSELF TO BE AN "ALMOST PACIFIST," YET I FEAR THAT WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE WEST BANK, NAIVE IDEALISM CAN BE A CALAMITOUS TRAP. CAMP DAVID ENVISIONED A STEP BY STEP PROCESS WHEREBY THE WEST BANK ARABS WOULD GRADUALLY DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY COULD GOVERN THEMSELVES PEACEABLY AND BE A FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR. THE INTRANSIGENCE OF THE ARABS AND, WE MIGHT ADD, THE LIKKUD PARTY IN ISRAEL, HAS PUT THE CAMP DAVID PROCESS ON HOLD. IT IS TIME FOR THAT PROCESS TO MOVE FORWARD TOWARDS AUTONOMY AND SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR THE WEST BANK. IT IS NOT TIME FOR A NEW PALESTINIAN STATE WITH ITS OWN ARMY.

YOU MAY SAY, RABBI, THIS IS ALL FINE AND REASONABLE, BUT THE PALESTINIANS ARE IN NO MOOD FOR GRADUALISM. THEY WANT AN INDEPENDENT STATE AND THEY WANT IT NOW. HERE I WOULD SIDE WITH HENRY KISSINGER AND JEANE KIRKPATRICK WHO WARN AGAINST GOING TOO FAR TOO QUICKLY. WE AMERICANS TEND TO THINK THAT EVERYTHING HAS A SOLUTION AND A QUICK ONE. IN THE MIDDLE-EAST SOLUTIONS ARE HARD TO FIND. LEBANON SEEMS TO BE CONTINUING PROOF OF THIS. IN THE ABSENCE OF A QUICK SOLUTION, ONE HAS TO HOLD TIGHT AND DO THE BEST HE CAN. THAT, IT SEEMS TO ME, IS WHAT ISRAEL IS TRYING TO DO, TRYING TO STEER A COURSE BETWEEN A MORE VIOLENT REPRESSION OF THE RIOTING PALESTINIANS AND A NAIVE TRANSFER OF POWER TO ARAFAT'S HOODLUMS. I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS PRECISELY THE TIME WHEN WE AMERICAN JEWS MUST LET THE ISRAELIS KNOW THAT WE ARE WITH THEM, AND THAT WE WILL STAND WITH THEM. WE DON'T HAVE TO APPROVE OF EVERYTHING THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DOES, BUT WE HAVE TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE GRAVE DIFFICULTIES UNDER WHICH THEY OPERATE ON A DAILY BASIS.

ISRAEL REPORTS THAT IN THE CURRENT UPRISING, THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN 13,000 CLASHES. OVER A THOUSAND OF THESE CLASHES HAVE BEEN GASOLINE BOMB ATTACKS AND THERE HAVE BEEN THREE HUNDRED KNIFE ATTACKS ON SOLDIERS.* ONE WONDERS WHAT ARAB NATION WOULD ENDURE 13,000 CLASHES BEFORE TAKING MORE DRASTIC ACTION. CONCERNING THE DEMANDS ON ISRAEL TO BE LENIENT AND GENEROUS, THE DISTINGUISHED COLUMNIST FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES, MR. A.M. ROSENTHAL, HAS WRITTEN "AMERICAN JEWS HAVE THE RIGHT TO CRITICIZE ISRAEL, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK IT TO COMMIT SUICIDE." MR. ROSENTHAL IS VERY MUCH AGAINST A NEW PALESTINIAN STATE ON THE WEST BANK.

AS THE PEOPLE WHICH GAVE THE WORLD THE PROPHETS WHO FIRST PROCLAIMED THE IDEA OF PEACE BETWEEN NATIONS, WE JEWS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO WORK CONSTANTLY TOWARDS THAT GOAL. IT IS IN RECOGNITION OF THAT DUTY THAT WE HERE IN BETH AM HAVE CHOSEN THE PROPHETIC TEACHING FOR OUR ARK: "'NOT BY MILITARY POWER, NOR BY VIOLENCE, BUT BY MY SPIRIT,' SAITH THE LORD." NONETHELESS, WE JEWS, AS MR. ROSENTHAL REMINDS US, CANNOT COMMIT SUICIDE IN OUR SEARCH FOR PEACE. WE HAVE STILL ANOTHER DUTY TO FULFILL, AND THAT IS THE DUTY TO SURVIVE ON OUR TINY CREVICE IN THE ROCK. TO GIVE UP THAT CREVICE WILL BE AN ACT OF IMMORALITY TOWARDS THE 767 WHO DIED ON THE SHIP THE STRUMA AND AN ACT OF BETRAYAL TOWARDS THE SIX MILLION, WHO LIKE THE FIRST DOVE RELEASED FROM NOAH'S ARK... "FLEW THIS WAY AND THAT WAY AND COULD NOT IN ALL THE WORLD FIND ONE SPOT TO CALL IT'S OWN."

* Figures as of September 1988. They have multiplied since. Tremendously

Since this sermon was written in September 1980, Arafat has reluctantly stated that he will not insist on the destruction of Israel. On the other hand, at several PLO Council meetings, Arafat's statement has not been confirmed and no change in their charter calling for the destruction of Israel has been made. On the other hand other PLO leaders have been quoted in Arab papers as saying that the Arafat position was but a necessary present compromise as a first step in a gradual process to claim all of Palestine for the Arabs. This writer believes with one Irish ~~diplomat~~ historian and diplomat, in his factual study, "The Siege", Israel had best be extremely cautious or it will be swallowed up.

THIS RABBI HAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED HIMSELF TO BE AN "ALMOST PACIFIST" YET I FEAR THAT WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE WEST BANK, NAIVE IDEALISM CAN BE CALAMITOUS TRAP. CAMP DAVID ENVISIONED A STEP BY STEP PROCESS WHEREBY THE WEST BANK ARABS WOULD GRADUALLY DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY COULD GOVERN THEMSELVES PEACEABLY AND BE A FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR. THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE ARABS AND WE MIGHT ADD THE LIKUD PARTY IN ISRAEL, HAS PUT THE CAMP DAVID PROCESS ON HOLD. IT IS TIME FOR THAT PROCESS TO MOVE FORWARD TOWARDS AUTONOMY AND SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR THE WEST BANK. IT IS NOT TIME FOR A NEW PALESTINIAN STATE WITH ITS OWN ARMY. YOU MAY SAY, RABBI, THIS IS ALL FINE AND REASONABLE, BUT THE PALESTINIANS ARE IN NO MOOD FOR GRADUALISM. THEY WANT AN INDEPENDENT STATE AND THEY WANT IT NOW. HERE I WOULD STEER WITH HENRY KISSINGER AND JEAN KIRKPATRICK WHO WARRN AGAINST GOING TOO FAR TOO QUICKLY. WE AMERICANS TEND TO THINK THAT EVERYTHING HAS A SOLUTION AND A QUICK ONE. IN THE MIDDLE-EAST SOLUTIONS ARE HARD TO FIND. LEADERS TRYING TO DO, TRYING TO STEER A COURSE BETWEEN A MORE VIOLENT REPRESSION OF THE RIOTING PALESTINIANS AND A NAIVE TRANSFER OF POWER TO ARAFAT'S HOBBLEMS. I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS PRECISELY THE TIME WHEN WE AMERICAN JEWS MUST LET THE ISRAELI KNOW THAT WE ARE WITH THEM, AND THAT WE WILL STAND WITH THEM. WE DON'T HAVE TO APPROVE OF EVERYTHING THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DOES, BUT WE HAVE TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE GRAVE DIFFICULTIES UNDER WHICH THEY OPERATE ON A DAILY BASIS. ISRAELI REPORTS THAT IN THE CURRENT UPRISE, THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN 13,000 CLASHES OVER A THOUSAND OF THESE CLASHES HAVE BEEN GASOLINE BOMB ATTACKS AND THERE HAVE BEEN THREE HUNDRED WIFE ATTACKS ON SOLDIERS. ONE WONDERS WHAT ARAB NATION WOULD ENDURE 13,000 CLASHES BEFORE TAKING MORE DRASTIC ACTION. CONCERNING THE DEMANDS ON ISRAEL TO BE LENIENT AND GENEROUS, THE DISTINGUISHED COLUMNIST FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES, MR. A.M. ROSENTHAL, HAS WRITTEN "AMERICAN JEWS HAVE THE RIGHT TO CRITICIZE ISRAEL, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK IT TO COMMIT SUICIDE." MR. ROSENTHAL IS VERY MUCH AGAINST A NEW PALESTINIAN STATE ON THE WEST BANK. AS THE PEOPLE WHICH GAVE THE WORLD THE PROPHETS WHO FIRST PROCLAIMED THE IDEA OF PEACE BETWEEN NATIONS, WE JEWS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO WORK CONSTANTLY TOWARDS THAT GOAL. IT IS IN RECOGNITION OF THAT DUTY THAT WE HERE IN BETH AN HAVE CHOSEN THE PROPHETIC TEACHING FOR OUR ARK: "NOT BY MILITARY POWER, NOR BY VIOLENCE, BUT BY MY SPIRIT," SAITH THE LORD. NONETHELESS, WE JEWS, AS MR. ROSENTHAL REMINDS US CANNOT COMMIT SUICIDE IN OUR SEARCH FOR PEACE. WE HAVE STILL ANOTHER DUTY TO FULFILL, AND THAT IS THE DUTY TO SURVIVE ON OUR TINY CRUISE IN THE ROCK. TO GIVE UP THAT CRUISE WILL BE AN ACT OF IMMORALITY TOWARDS THE 257 WHO DIED ON THE SHIP THE STRUMA AND AN ACT OF BETRAYAL TOWARDS THE SIX MILLION, WHO LIKE THE FIRST DOVE RELEASED FROM NOAH'S ARK... "FLEW THIS WAY AND THAT WAY AND COULD NOT IN ALL THE WORLD FIND ONE SPOT TO CALL IT'S OWN."

Source is of September 1980. They have misquoted Arafat.