

Forum II

Arab identity is actively encouraged in Israeli state

By JAY BELL

Rarely has Excalibur published such a fine blend of fact and fantasy as the interview by Hollett and Stuart with Khaled Mouammar, the spokesman for the Toronto Arab-Palestinian organization (January 30).

Many charges were made which, if left unchallenged, would lead people to believe that Israel is the new Nazi-totalitarian state.

Much of the article charges that Arab-Israeli citizens are repressed in areas of education, employment, and

culture. Yet these charges are unfounded.

The Israeli government long ago passed legislation making education compulsory. The facts speak for themselves.

In 1948 there were only 198 Arab teachers in Palestine — today there are over 5,000. One could list figures ad nauseam to prove that the mass of the Arab population in Israel have never been better educated.

The schools they attend are, for the most part, administered by Arabs, and for the first four years

Arabic is the language of instruction. Contrary to what Mouammar would have us believe, Arabic studies form part of the curriculum in later years.

Furthermore, the library in Jaffa has 100,000 books in Arabic. Theatres, movies, radio programming, newspapers — all these are available in the Arab language (Arabic is a national language of Israel).

Mouammar is wrong; there is no attempt to destroy the Arab identity in Israel. Quite the contrary, it is being encouraged.

There is more participation in the political process by the Arabs in Israel than anywhere else in the Middle East. Israel granted the vote to Arab women before any other state in the Middle East.

Arab-Israeli citizens vote for and sit in the Israeli parliament. In spite of being kept in a state of siege for almost 30 years, Israel has held her elections and protected her minorities. Yet this is the country Mouammar would have us believe is a fascist state.

Mouammar makes reference to the fact that the Israelis have taken over the abandoned Arab lands. Perhaps he was not aware that Israel amended the law he was referring to as a result of pressure by Arab voters. It is now possible to obtain compensation for expropriated land, and 2/3 of the claims for compensation have already been settled.

Perhaps these facts were unavailable to the Arab-Palestinian association. One would like to believe this, but on reading Mouammar's version of Middle East history, one cannot help but be skeptical.

We are to believe that the Arab

legions came to the rescue on May 15, only after the Jews attacked helpless Arabs in Palestine in 1948. He ignores the fact that the first violence came right after the vote for partition, and that the Arabs were responsible.

He ignores the fact that the Arab armies were already massed on the borders of the new state, waiting only for the British to leave, which happened incidentally to fall on that same May 15.

It becomes obvious that this spokesman, this Arab politician, has an all too convenient memory that twists the truth to suit his cause.

In all, there was only one charge that was true — the reference to Deir Yassan. The massacre in 1948 is not an event that we Jews are proud of. Even though it happened in the midst of a war it is not forgivable.

Yet, as we must condemn that act of barbarism, so must we condemn the actions at Hebron, Maa'lot, Orly Airport, the Munich Olympics, and all the other acts of terror perpetrated by the affiliates of the PLO. They too, cannot wash the blood away.

Political science debate

Professor resents "jingoism"

Clearly the pressures of the year-end election festival have proven too much for the Excalibur staff, and have restored a reporting style I had hoped was past and gone.

I refer to the story concerning the political science graduate council in last week's edition. We are told of three motions that the graduate council did not pass, but there is no mention of the compromise resolution they *did* pass: "Normally a Ph.D. student who has not previously taken a course in Canadian studies will be expected to take a course in Canadian studies before graduating."

We are also told that Professor Weissman indicated the probable motivations of the foreign graduate

students he thought might have comprised "the main bloc voting against the motion". If in fact Professor Weissman said this, his social science methods repertoire includes mental telepathy; surely it also includes the capacity to check the record of the meeting and learn that only five of the 24 persons attending were "foreign graduate students".

As a native Canadian who voted against the Butler-Williams motion, I resent the branch-plant jingoism of my colleagues' arguments. I further resent Excalibur's failure to get both sides of this issue.

My own views are suspect of course, since although my first degree is from York (Glendon '67) my others are from an American un-

iversity (which incidentally did not require me to take a course on U.S. politics).

On the other hand, Professor Weissman has all his degrees from American universities, and Mr. Butler and Mr. Williams have all of theirs from York.

R.J. Drummond
Assistant Professor

LONG DATE CHARTERS

TO LONDON AND EUROPE

up to 98 Days
at usual low fares

FOR STUDENTS ONLY

one way charters to and from Vancouver

Apply C.Y.S.F.
Room 105 Central Square

ISRAEL

EQUALITY & SOCIAL CHANGE

with

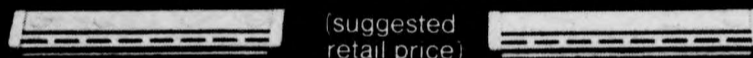
BENNY AFLALO

- associate director of Aliyah Department, Montreal
- Moroccan immigrant to Israel
- resident of Ma'lot development town

Monday March 31st.
8 p.m.

ZIONIST CENTRE
788 MARLEE
HAIFA ROOM

Get a real Trac II razor
(not a demonstrator)
plus 5 cartridges for just \$1.
A \$3.50 value.



Over 15 million men and women have switched to the Trac II Razor System. This may be your easiest way to find out why.

The Trac II Razor Effect:



Please send to me your complete Trac II Twin Blade Cartridge Shaving System for only \$1.00, includes razor, 5 shaving cartridges (suggested retail price \$3.50). Gillette will pay all postage and handling charges.

- Check one only;
- Send me both a Lady Trac II & The Men's Trac II Twin Blade Shaving System (I enclose \$2.)
 - Send me a Lady Trac II Twin Blade Shaving System (I enclose \$1.)
 - Send me a Men's Trac II Twin Blade Shaving System (I enclose \$1.)



Hers His

Address envelope to:
Trac II Offer, 307 Davenport Road,
Toronto, Ontario M5R 1K5

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Apt. _____

Offer expires December 31, 1975. Prov. _____ P. Code _____