

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL BIOPHYSICS
Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies in
Biophysics

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Active University/Research Institute/Hospital Environment

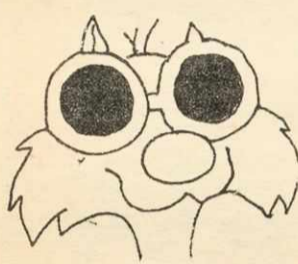
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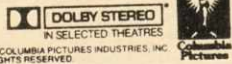
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TRAVEL CUTS
Going Your Way!

o p i n i o n

Milk and honey attract pestilence

by David Deaton

(Part 1 of this article was published in the February 4 issue of the Dalhousie Gazette.)

Israel has "good" reason for holding on to the Territories. Gaza and the West Bank provide lucrative sources of tax revenue. Twice as much tax money comes out from these impoverished areas as goes into public services there. As the ultimate indignity, Palestinians are made to finance their own occupation.

But this is not the worst hardship. Two-thirds of the Palestinian labour force actually work within the borders of Israel. They have the jobs that Israelis will not stoop to take. Their wages are enough to keep them alive and that is all. Those who attempt to organize trade unions are arrested for subversion.

During the day Palestinians toil in the land of milk and honey. At night, they return to their barbed-wire ghettos. The eyes of military surveillance are

ever upon them. They must carry their pass-books at all times.

Does this description remind you of another country? Dr. Zayid did not flinch from comparing Israel with South Africa in its tacit policy of apartheid. Both regimes practice ideological racism. Both regimes shoot down children in cold blood. Both regimes enthusiastically support each other. Israel is South Africa's largest supplier of arms. Some of those arms may well be nuclear.

Dr. Zayid did not neglect the plight of 700,000 Arabs who are also Israeli citizens. Compared to Israeli Jews, Israeli-born Arabs are second-class citizens, denied basic democratic rights.

While they are allowed to vote, they are forbidden to form nationalist political parties. Israeli Arabs are not eligible for many government benefits because they do not serve in the Israeli Armed Forces. Because they are non-Jews, they are not even allowed to till the land owned by the Jewish National Fund.

But it is in the vital, future-determining field of education that Arabs suffer the most from discrimination. The average Arab school receives one eighth to one tenth the amount of public funds allocated to its Jewish counterpart. This is a matter of public record, said Dr. Zayid, not of argument.

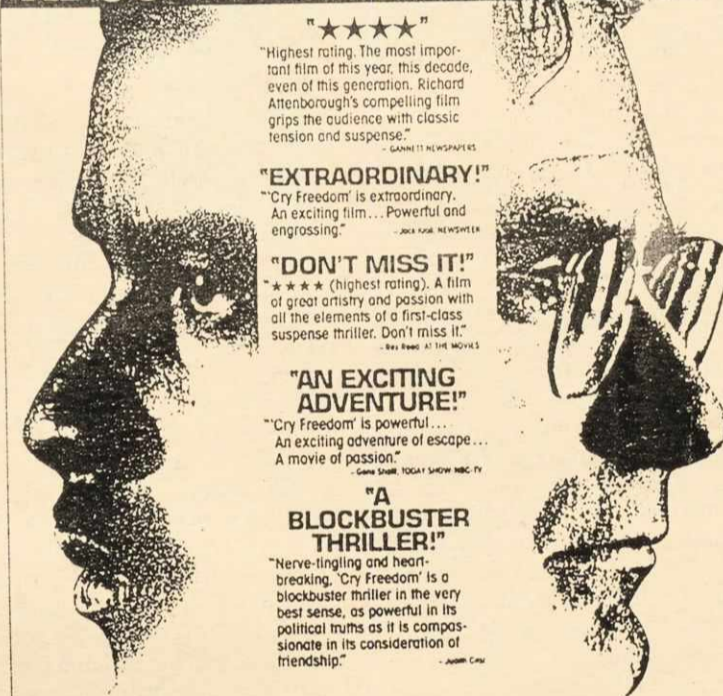
What other conclusion can be drawn from such harrowing observations but this? In the land once known as Palestine, the ruling powers in Israel seek to make a permanent underclass of the Palestinian people.

Is it any wonder, then, the Arab youths should be seen every night hurling rocks at Israeli soldiers? They stare at us with such unspeakable, unassuageable hatred, complain the Israelis. Can they not understand why? asked Dr. Zayid.

The only wonder is that it has taken this long for the crisis to come. Now Israel must reap the bitter harvest of two decades of oppression.

continued on page 12

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