

This would seem to indicate that the position in the Middle East is not at least a static one. Mr. Ben Gurion expressed the opinion in an address to a group of visitors from the United States last March that elements in the Arab countries do indeed wish to conclude peace with Israel, although internal political difficulties make this still impossible. About the same time, on the 19th of March, the editors of The Times in London said, "...if only a handful of Arab statesmen are beginning to see that the adjustment of relations between the Arab world and the Western powers and the making of peace between the Arab states and Israel are two parts of the same problem of Middle Eastern defence, there is some hope of advance".

We in Canada who are anxious for real peace to come in the Middle East might perhaps help in a small way to create a climate within which mutual adjustments would gradually become easier if we avoided in our speaking and writing, any easy generalizations about Arab leaders and the Arab people which may prove on closer examination or in the light of a future rapprochement to have been unrealistic. It is easier, of course, to repeat a generalization than to examine its authenticity, but a constant effort to be accurate - that is to say, to understand human beings who are different from ourselves - is likely to pay dividends out of all proportion to the effort itself. While in Israel Jewish leaders, civilized men and women, are trying in the midst of overwhelming difficulties to give the civilized answer to racial persecution, we should ourselves do what we can to aid their effort.

There was an Irishman once whom we might describe as the prototype of those who consider inter-racial rapprochement to be impossible. It was the end of summer and an English professor of botany, just emerging from an Irish bog with his specimens and his notes, was ready to head back to his university in England. He told the Irish peasant he wanted to go to Dublin and asked if this was the right path to take. "To Dublin!" the Irishman exclaimed, "Why, man this is a bog! If I was going to Dublin I'd never start from here!"

If, however, we want badly enough to reach the goal of mutual understanding we can start from any point. The main thing is the civilized wish. With that wish, converted into a resolve on both sides, a way out of the bog of fear and misunderstanding between Israel and its neighbours can be found. This would make infinitely easier the work of those pioneers who are building the new Jewish nation, and those whose untimely and tragic death we lament tonight would rest more peacefully. So we are glad that the outlook here is not as dark as it was and that there are grounds for hope of better things.

There is more than hope, however. There is the fact of proud achievement in what the people of Israel have already done to create their own national home and assure their own national destiny. Here they are in no bog, but marching steadily forward on firm ground. The temple of liberty and national respect has been restored. The forests of freedom have in sad truth been nourished by the blood of millions; but they grow and they spread. And to symbolise this new life that has emerged from cruelty and oppression, the flag of Israel waves proudly now among the banners of the United Nations.