

Food Bank looks for help

Edmonton's Food Bank is looking for help from university students.

"We've been hit with provincial cutbacks, which is something students can relate to," said Food Bank worker Gerard Kennedy, a former U of A student.

The Food Bank is running low on supplies and needs volunteers to help out with a food drive.

"Our organization's goal is to recover surplus food, from both

wholesalers and retailers, and put it to good use. Because we're short on food, people are getting smaller hampers," explained Kennedy.

The Food Bank works through various community agencies such as churches.

"We need the talent and time of volunteers. The food is there. It's a function of our economic system that there's a lot of food available and which would get

thrown out unless an operation like ours can ask for it. And it's perfectly good food - mostly canned goods but fruit is also there," said Kennedy.

The Food Bank tries to "ease the burden placed on member agencies in attending to the increasing demands of the hungry and disadvantaged."

For more information, call Gerard Kennedy at 426-7262.

**Newswriters meeting.
Room 282 SUB.
Thursday, 3:30 pm.**

No self-determination, no peace

by Kent Cochrane

Palestinians have the right to self-determination and to a fully independent state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said an Israeli journalist at a forum at the U of A last week.

Dr. Ammon Kapeliouk was speaking at a forum sponsored by Jews For Peace in the Middle East. The subject was "The Israeli Peace Movement: What is it Saying to Us?"

"There will be no peace in the Middle East without peace with the Palestinians, and no peace with the Palestinians without giving them self-determination," said Kapeliouk.

"This is the only way to achieve reconciliation between two groups who consider the same area their homeland," he said.

"It is unrealistic to say 'we can live in the same state.'"

Kapeliouk said that although Israel is a small state, with vulnerable borders, its security can be assured if there is good will on both sides.

He also said peace between Israel and the Palestinians would make it difficult for the Arab states to justify continued hostility towards Israel.

Kapeliouk added that an independent Palestinian state would be "very prudent" and would not serve as a base for attacks against Israel, out of fear of losing their independent existence.

"If the Palestinians were to violate the proposed agreement with Israel, Israel would be excused by the world if they entered the Palestinian state," he declared.

He foresaw real peace and friendship with the Palestinians after three or four generations.

"The Israeli flag flies in Cairo, and the Egyptian flag in Tel Aviv, but real peace and reconciliation with Egypt does not exist," he said.

Since the war in 1973, there has been the feeling in Israel that force doesn't work in solving political problems. Israel has tried all ways to impose peace except dialogue.

It was true in the past that the Palestinians refused to talk with Israel, he said. However, it is now the Israelis who refuse, because they realize that there will have to be concessions in order to make progress.

The only meaningful concession Israel can make is to give back the occupied territories, something it is currently unwilling to do, he concluded.

Kapeliouk said that the Palestinians reject demands that they formally recognize Israel's existence as a prerequisite for negotiations, because "it is the last card that the Palestinians have."

The Palestinians are ready for mutual recognition and want the Israeli government to acknowledge their right to self-determination.

Kapeliouk said that the peace camps in Israel, which supports Palestinian self-determination, is still a minority, but that Israelis are listening to it with much more concern now. The peace camp has existed for many years, but is much more active now because there is a backlash against the invasion of Lebanon.

Kapeliouk said that the peace

movement called the war a mistake from the very beginning.

The war was not defensive, and some 120 men had gone to jail instead of serving with the army in Lebanon.

"For the first time in the history of Israel, soldiers and officers refused to fight," he said.

The Israeli invasion of Lebanon had two major aims, according to Kapeliouk.

First, the Israelis wanted to destroy the political leadership of the PLO, because most Palestinians in the occupied territories accept Yasser Arafat as their spokesman.

"The Israeli government tried to negotiate with the West Bank mayors but were told that the mayors had no right to speak for Palestinians," said Kapeliouk.

The second aim of the invasion was to establish a new order in Lebanon, by placing the Phalangists in power there. Kapeliouk said that there are people from many different ideologies in the peace movement.

"Many observers believe that there must be a change in American policy if Israeli policy is going to change," he said.

He also said the Jewish lobby in the US is one of the main reasons for the very pro-Israel policy of the Americans.

"I don't know why the Arabs don't also have a lobby in the US," he said, mentioning that there are four or five million Arabs in the US.

The only possibility to reach a settlement in the Middle East must be based on Israel's pre-1967 borders, he said. These borders have been accepted by almost everyone, if not formally recognized.

"As far as I know, the Palestinians accept these borders," he said.

However, he added, virtually no one has accepted the post-1967 borders as permanent. He also said that solution of the question of sovereignty over Jerusalem was essential to peace.

"Every settlement in the occupied territories is an obstacle to peace."

In the 17 years that they have held the occupied territories, the Israelis have constructed about 150 settlements.

"However, most Israelis prefer not to go there," he said.

Only about 28,000 Israelis have homes on the West Bank, and many of these are second homes.

"Flats in the occupied territories are very cheap - about one third of the price in Israel."

Kapeliouk said that while Arabs who live within the pre-1967 borders of Israel have the same rights as Jewish Israelis and vote in elections, there is in practice some unofficial discrimination.

"they are not 100 per cent equal, just as Israeli women are not 100 per cent equal to the men."

The Israeli peace movement is also fighting for the full equality of Israeli Arabs, he said.

Kapeliouk was born in 1936 in Jerusalem, received his PhD from the Sorbonne in Paris, and served in the Israeli army.

As a journalist, he has written for *Le Monde* and *The New York Times*.

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