

Expansionist character of Israel's Zionism opposed

TORONTO (CUP) — "The Zionist character of the state of Israel is the fundamental problem in the middle east," an active member of the American Jewish Alternatives to Zionism said in a recent speech at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Norton Mezvinsky, a professor of history at Central Connecticut State College, opposed the "expansionist" character of Israeli Zionism. Immediately after the 1967 war, he said, Israel argued that peace negotiations depend on Arab recognition of the existence of the state of Israel. Yet, when such Arab countries as Egypt and

Syria publicly and officially expressed their willingness to deal with Israel, the Israeli position shifted over to stressing the need to hold on to defensible borders, he contended.

The new Israeli demand for military "safe" and defensible borders reveals the intransigent character of Israeli diplomacy, he argued. Israeli military strategists, like General Peled, are well aware of the "absurdity" of this demand. Given the state of contemporary military technology, "safe" borders were a myth. The only safe border was one

agreed upon by all sides, Mezvinsky said.

Israel does not want ever to give up those newly acquired territories, he asserted.

Mezvinsky believed that Israeli Zionism is expansionist in design because of the concept of 'alliyah' central to Jewish nationalism. 'Alliyah' is the belief all Jews should come back to Israel.

The preface to the law passed by the Knesset (the Israeli parliament) in November 1952 to administer the 'alliyah', noted that it was the "central task of the state of Israel to bring Jews back to Israel": hence, the existence of the

Law of Return which entitles any Jew to go to Israel and claim citizenship.

However, Mezvinsky claimed that that Israel's expansion was not necessarily related to future Jewish immigration. It is Israel's need to maintain the numeric superiority of the Jews in the Israeli state that has resulted in the Zionist laws favouring the immigration of Jews. It has also caused the discrimination against the Arabs who had lived in Palestine before 1948 and those who were born after that date.

The Arabs in Israel do not possess rights equal to the Jews

living there. In fact, native Arabs do not even possess the rights of an immigrant Jew, he said. For example, the Jewish National Fund, which controls 90 per cent of the land in Israel, will not lease any lands to Arabs.

Mezvinsky favoured the elimination of the principle underlying the Zionist character of the state of Israel. Making it clear that this did not imply the expulsion of the Jewish population, he said that he did not want to destroy the Zionist state just to have it replaced by an Arab version of Zionism.

Canadian to fight US draft evasion charges

Gavin Naeve, the 25-year-old naturalized Canadian citizen facing draft evasion charges in the United States, returned home to Canada last night but intends to return to the U.S. to stand trial even though draft evasion is not an extraditable offence.

Naeve was released Tuesday on a \$5,000 bond after spending 10 days in two U.S. jails. He was arrested at New York's John F. Kennedy airport 12 days ago while en route from Bermuda to Calgary.

Lowell Naeve, Gavin's father, said in a telephone interview from his home in North Hatley, Que., that the family would spend some time before selecting a lawyer "who will be able to take the case to the highest court of appeal if necessary."

Brandon Naeve, 17, confirmed his older brother is going back to the U.S. to stand trial "for sure... there's a \$5,000 involved."

Lowell Naeve said the family has received many offers of help from unexpected sources, including "the head of a church organization" in Canada who offered to start a defence fund for Gavin.

He said if the case goes to appeal, it will cost a lot of money, "not the kind of money we're used to."

Lowell Naeve, himself a conscientious objector in World War II, said he moved the family to Canada in 1965 when Gavin was 17 so his son would not have to face the draft.

But United States law requires any male born in the U.S. to register for the draft within 30 days of his 16th birthday, which Naeve

did not do. He came to Canada as a landed immigrant eight days before that birthday.

He said in a telephone interview from his sister's home in Brattleboro, Vt., on Tuesday after being released: "I'm very lucky to be a Canadian."

(Toronto Star)

Says Canada ignoring Chilean refugees

TORONTO (CUP) — While thousands of workers and Alliance supporters are being systematically rounded up and killed the Canadian embassy has "locked" their doors to 250 to 300 political refugees seeking asylum according to Tim Drainin, a member of the Latin American Working Group.

Speaking at a Waffle educational on the struggle of Chilean people, Drainin said that at least three of those turned down by the ambassador have been killed. At present the Canadian embassy harbors about twenty Latin Americans seeking asylum while the embassies of Mexico, Argentina and Panama harbors hundreds.

The refugees are Chilean leftists fleeing government repression after the Sept. 11 coup that changed the country overnight from socialist to military government. Refugees from other right-wing Latin American countries are also included in the purge.

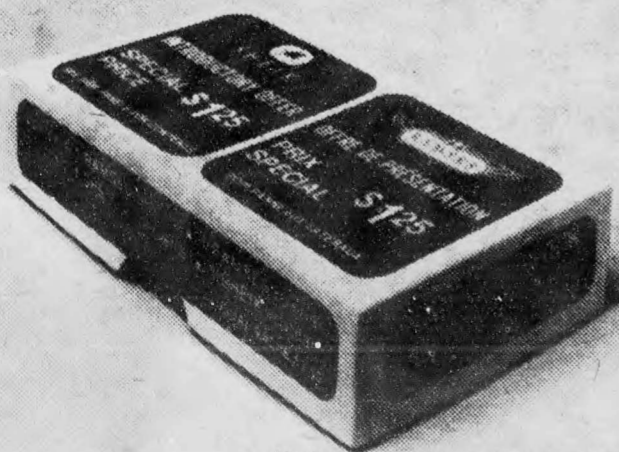
Drainin learned from an External Affairs official that the Canadian government has accepted only two applicants to emigrate to Canada. The official is reported to have said that the Canadian government will not offer asylum to "free-loaders".

Drainin also learned that the Department of External Affairs has consented to shelter any person the United Nations referred to the Canadian ambassador. However, he reported that when a UN official asked the Canadian embassy to put up 200 refugees overnight, the ambassador "hemmed and hawed and demanded to know who they were." He subsequently denied them entry.

At the end of the educational Drainin read a resolution addressed Mitchell Sharp which appealed to the government to take action to alleviate the plight of refugees escaping persecution. It was unanimously approved by the audience.

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