

Prof takes Arab view

SHEREE-LEE OLSON

A former political advisor to Israel's military government in the West Bank "took the Arab perspective" on Thursday in a talk on "West Bank Politics: Perspectives on the Past, Prospects for the Future."

Amnon Cohen, Professor of History at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a former guest professor at York emphasized that without negotiation, the Palestinian question is a "non-starter". But because "you can't negotiate with someone who won't negotiate, and with someone who isn't in the position to give and take," Cohen ruled out both the P.L.O. and their followers as "rejectionist", and the Israeli-supported Palestinian Village Leagues as too politically weak. Only Jordan's King Hussein, claimed Cohen, could qualify now as Israel's partner in any "meaningful negotiation" over the future of the West Bank. He called this theory the "Arab perspective" because from Israel's point of view, the impasse can remain indefinitely. As long as no one will negotiate with Israel, said Cohen, "we can go on and do what we like."

Media outspoken

Cohen noted that the North American media has become outspoken in its criticism of "Israeli intransigence," but neglects the "other term," the fact that the P.L.O. refuses to negotiate. For years, he said, Israel refused to recognize the Palestinian problem but "it does acknowledge in the context of the Camp David Accords that the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people (will have to be addressed)." However, the P.L.O., elected the sole representatives of the Palestinian people by an Arab Summit Conference in 1974, "came out vociferously against any hope of negotiation immediately after the Camp David Accords." Cohen said there was speculation that last summer's war in Lebanon would

modify their position, but the recent meeting of the Palestinian National Council in Algiers revealed that "the P.L.O. are as firm on rejection as at any time during the past four years."

Cohen also ruled out the Village Leagues - small groups of rural Palestinian politicians who support the Israeli government - as potential candidates for negotiated settlement. "No doubt that the language that they speak, the style and the approach is moderate, but they represent a very tiny minority."

Some changes

In support of the Hussein alternative, Cohen points to recent "indications and hints" to that effect in the U.S., and the fact that in the West Bank "we've noticed some changes." Hussein acted in charge of the West Bank until the P.L.O. became the sole representatives in 1974, after which he "avoided any contact with the Palestinians." But especially since the Lebanon war, said Cohen, "there's been a growing involvement of Hussein and his people with the affairs of the West Bank." This takes the form of active financial support of a growing trade union movement. "Arabs are reading this as a sign to organize in new ways." Also, young Palestinian politicians who have supported the P.L.O. are now "asking about other

Israeli alternatives and going back and reporting what they hear not to Arafat but to Hussein's people."

Another factor in favour of the Hussein alternative said Cohen, is the decreasing importance to the U.S. of Saudi oil. Formerly, "the argument went that no one could go to Hussein because he depended on the Saudis and everyone knows they have the Americans in their back pocket."

Hussein has stated openly on American TV that he cannot negotiate with Begin, but Cohen is undaunted. "It was the same Begin that sat down with Sadat and signed away the Sinai. The fact that he is a hawk does not preclude discussion - the advantage is that there's no one more extreme to overrule it." The West, said Cohen, must try to convince the Jordanians that "if they don't want to lose the West Bank once and for all they'd better negotiate." However, the U.S. is playing down the Hussein alternative, said Cohen, even though it fits with Reagan policy. This was not explained.

Cohen favours a "slice by slice" resolution of the problems in the Middle East, "the Domino System in reverse. To say that you can't negotiate until Israel pulls out of Lebanon is only to put it off indefinitely."

THERE WILL BE AN IMPORTANT ELECTION MEETING FOR ALL EXCAL MEMBERS ON MONDAY AT 4 PM. RSVP. REGRETS ONLY.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS!

FOR THE GRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Nominations close: Wednesday 5 p.m. March 23, 1983

Election Friday, March 25, 1983
Place: GSA Office N922 Ross
Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Positions open President
Treasurer
Secretary
Vice-President (Arts)
Vice-President (Science)
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Nominations will be accepted at N922 Ross, and by the Chief Returning Officer Jim Freemantle at 121 Petrie, 667-3510. All currently registered students within GSA member departments are eligible to vote. Bring your Sessional Validation Card.

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Good morning and thanks to John who was coerced in the late evening to deliver in the early morning. So Lerrick, we bang you a tea kettle or break you a china cabinet, but either way, we thank you. To Sheree-Lee who throws perfume at editors: you ARE an artist and there's little excuse to forget that. Roman worked the graveyard shift and we're 'wondrously' grateful. Mark is a real journalist with a dedicated foot--we know it hurts. Thanx to our photopeople--Mario, Debbie and Nigel--who can print faster than a speeding editor. A note of real appreciation to the printer downstairs who waits until 11 to whistle! Gary, I hope you can play poker another night; promise them anything and remember there are people expecting you two. It seems two can live as happily as one and there are excellent ways to start a day. Can we please leave now Roman. Aww common, let us outa here...quick Mike, you tie him up and I'll call the cab. Curtsies.

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Coordinator, Sexual Harassment Education and Complaint Centre

Following upon the recommendation in the Report of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Harassment, York University will establish a Sexual Harassment Education and Complaint Centre, to be run by a part-time Coordinator, with clerical assistance, and backed up by an Advisory Board. As outlined in the Report, the Sexual Harassment Education and Complaint Centre has two major responsibilities: 1) to educate the University community about sexual harassment; and 2) to provide information about procedures for dealing with allegations.

Applicants for the position of Coordinator must be affiliated with York University. If an employee of York University, the Coordinator will receive 1/3 release time, and if a non-employee, remuneration. The position commences in July 1983 and is a two-year term.

Applicants should familiarize themselves with the Report of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Harassment. Letters, detailing interest and experience, should be sent to:

Search Committee, Sexual Harassment Education and Complaint Centre, c/o Prof. A.B. Shteir, Chair, Room 706, Atkinson College.

Enquiries may be directed to Professor Shteir at 667-3172. Deadline for applications is **March 31, 1983.**

The position of Coordinator, Sexual Harassment Education and Complaint Centre was initially advertised in June 1982, specifying a requirement that candidates be female. The requirement resulted in a complaint of violation of the Ontario Human Rights Code. The complaint has now been settled and the position is being readvertised.

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