

# Rabbi and doctor meet to discuss Middle East peace

By ROSEMARY McCRACKEN  
A panel discussion on the possibilities of peace between Arabs

and Jews around the world was presented Monday evening at the St. Lawrence Centre. The event

celebrated the 45th anniversary of the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights.

United Nations Association representative, Janet Rosenstock talked about the enormous polarization which the energy crisis has produced in the United States before she introduced the two speakers, Rabbi Reuben Slonim and Dr. Ahmad Kadry. "It is not uncommon to see signs in the subways saying 'Kill the Arabs' or 'We need oil, not Jews'", said Rosenstock.

Kadry, a Toronto physician, described the plight of the millions of Palestinians who have been without homes and country since the establishment of the Israeli state in 1948.

"It was said that the Arabs were nomads and could be easily persuaded to pick up their tents and move inward. But the fact was that although there was a small number of nomads, the vast majority were farmers. Palestine was the largest exporter of citrus fruits in the world," said Kadry.

Slonim, author of the book *Both Sides Now*, stressed that there will never be reconciliation between Arabs and Jews unless ordinary people can talk together on a one-to-one basis.

Slonim warned Jews of the necessity of "putting Zionism in proper perspective."

"Authentic Zionism is not, and never has been aggressive. Zionism means the transformation of the Jewish people into a non-competitive nation.

"A nation does not exist in and for

itself, but for 'internationalism.' The growth of modern nationalism will lead to the extermination of the human race. If the Jews have survived only to do this, it would have been better for them to disappear 2,000 years ago.

"Don't glorify the Israeli army. No army comes out of a war, even a defensive war, as clean as it went into it. It is the business of Jews to remember the gas chambers, but in remembering, not to make the Israeli army the tool of re-born Jewishness," stated Slonim.

Slonim cited five steps necessary in the reconciliation of Jews and Arabs; first, to put Zionism into perspective; second, to throw away both the ancient disputes of who owns the land, as well as the differing views of how the Arabs left Palestine in 1948; third, for Jews to recognize that Palestinians have a national right and to make every effort to come to peace with them, fourth, for Arabs to come out and say that they do not intend to destroy the Israeli state; five, for both Jews and Arabs to surrender parochial nationalism.

The question of how 3,000,000 Jews can stand up against 120 million Arabs and Arab allies was brought up by the audience. Rabbi Slonim answered that the Jews have never operated by numbers alone. "Ours has always been a nation of quality. Whenever we have upheld this we have lived; whenever we didn't we were destroyed".

Another question concerned the possibility of going back to the 1948 double Israeli nation for both Jews and Arabs. Kadry assumed, from his knowledge of the media, that world leaders have in mind the creation of a twin Palestinian state on the east bank of the Red Sea.

## Versafood claims deficit at Memorial

St. JOHN'S (CUP) — Versafood Services, which operates the cafeterias at Memorial University here, claims it is losing money and plans to ask for higher prices.

At present, Memorial has a food plan similar to York's old one under which students were allowed second helpings at no additional cost. Versafood would like to implement the new York plan at Memorial to cut waste.

Early in September, Versa attempted to break its contract with Memorial by raising prices for casual meals and limiting all dining hall patrons to one main course serving at supper.

The university food committee, which was not very familiar with this contract, agreed to this. Versafood backed down, however, when the inter-residence food committee pointed out the contract could not be broken by increases in the wholesale cost of food.

Versafood then tried an anti-waste campaign for four weeks, after which the company said it would review its financial situation and take appropriate action. No new attempt to renegotiate the contract has yet been made.

Waldon Chafe, a member of the inter-residence food committee, does not think Versafood will again try to negotiate the contract on the basis of increased food costs.

"You could say they tried to pull a fast one on the university in September," Chafe said. "The contract allows only three reasons for renegotiation: if the Versafood workers unionize; if the provincial minimum wage increases; or if fewer than 1,270 students register for the board plan.

"I think that what they will do now is wait for, say, the provincial minimum wage to rise, rather than make another attempt to break the contract illegally, Chafe said.

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