

Special treatment for PLO

Harrassing Palestinians is official policy

(CUP) - A number of prominent Palestinians, intellectuals and diplomatic personnel, have been running into harrassment by Canadian Immigration officials when coming to speak in Canada. They have been followed everywhere and confined to very narrow lists of engagements.

Prominent Palestinians have been subjected to long interrogations at airports and allowed into Canada only under Ministerial Permits. When Dr. Fayex Sayegh, a distinguished Arab scholar and statesman came to Canada as guest of honour for the Canadian Arab Federation Annual Meeting he was detained and interrogated at the Toronto airport although he was carrying a diplomatic passport as well as his United Nations documents.

Dr. Sayegh had admitted to membership in the Palestinian Liberation Organization. "This under Canadian law makes him a member of a prohibited class... but under the Nicholson doctrine he was given a minister's permit for the express purpose of his visit to Toronto," stated minister of immigration Robert Andras.

given by the Department of Justice is that the PLO is an organization, the membership of which is prohibited entry except under special permit."

Dr. Sayegh himself has reported that in this interrogation he had stated that he was a member of the Palestine National Council of the PLO but not a member of one of the commando organizations.

On October 9 a distinguished Palestinian professor, Dr. Ibrahim Abou Lughud of Northwestern University (US) who came to speak to students of Toronto University on "Palestinian perspectives" following Moshe Dayan's talk on "Israel and Big Powers", was also interrogated at the airport.

On June 12 a trade union leader (Palestine General Union of Palestinian Workers) was detained and interrogated for three hours. One of the questions hammered at him was "Where does Arafat live? "What has this to do with his entering Canada on a visit?"

BAN ON PLO

Mr. McQuarrie then asked whether this indicated "that all members of the PLO whether they be priests, clergymen, pacifists or whatever, are not admissable to Canada".

Mr. Andras replied, "The advice

According to Globe and Mail reporters Peter Moon and Arnold Bruner (October 28) the Canadian cabinet has before it a request to permit immigration officers at port of entry "power without right of appeal to refuse entry to any foreigner they suspect of terrorism". How will they define that phrase?

According to Mr. Andras' statement, would this mean that all Palestinians would be turned back without even the reference to Ottawa accorded to Dr. Lighud? In its editorial (October 28) the Globe and Mail points out "entire national groups one supposes, could simply forget about entering Canada until after the games."

This would mean that for an entire year, while the question of the rights of the Palestinians to struggle for the liberation of their homeland, is still a controversial issue in Canada (although accepted in most countries of the world) no Palestinian would be admitted to put the facts as he sees them in front of the Canadian people.

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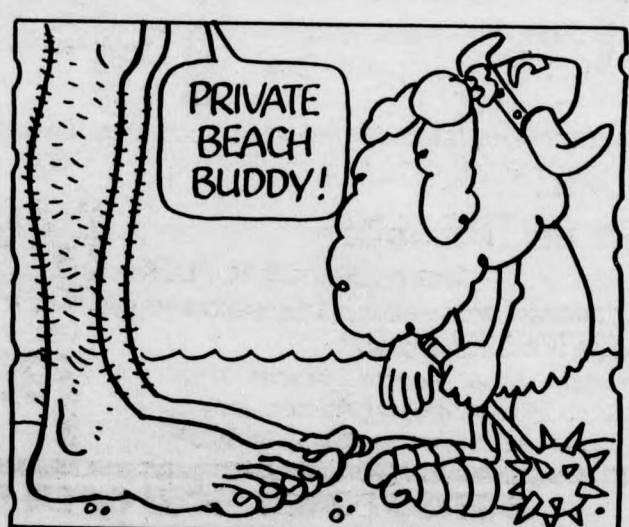
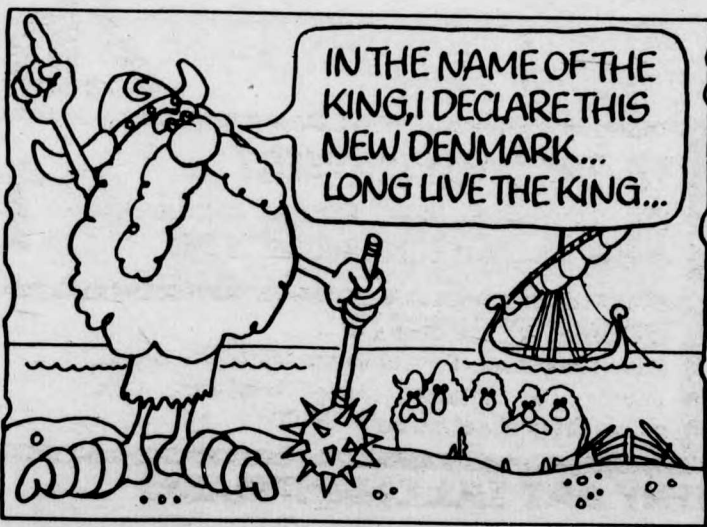
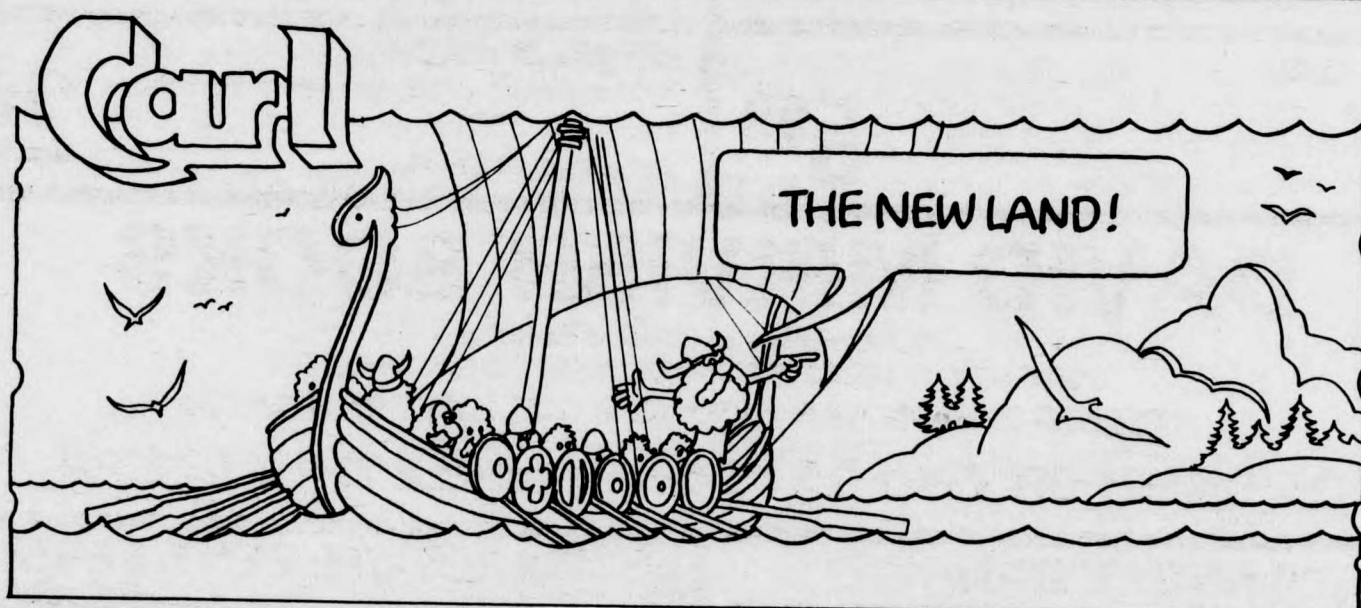
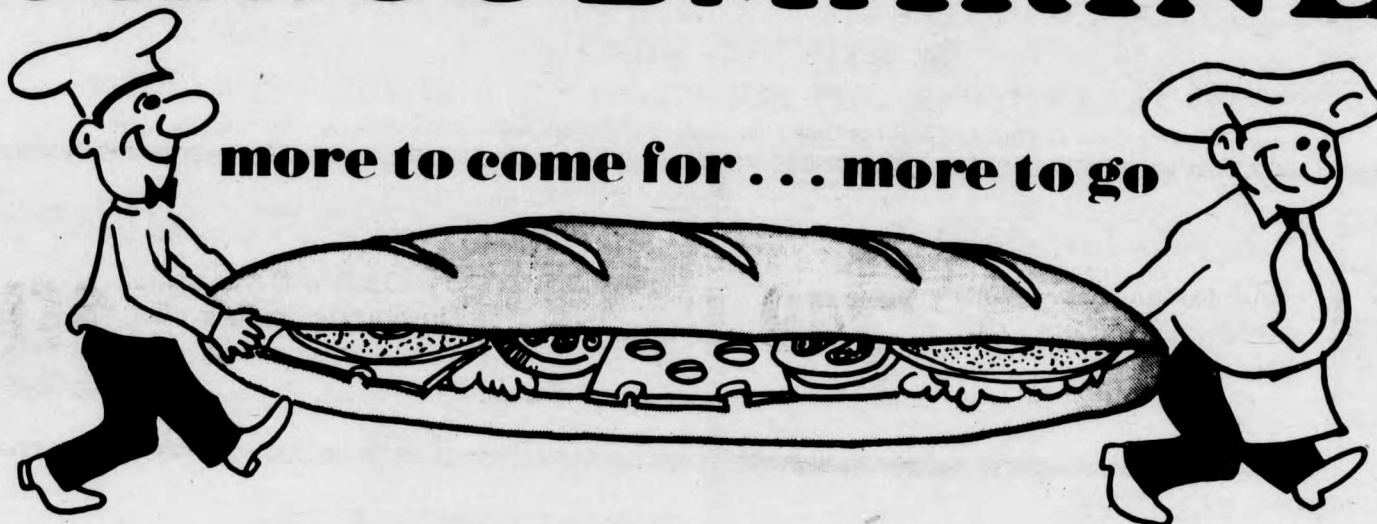
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