

his head in order to express his views and support the proposal. In the course of the current year some 50 per cent of all the Palestinian casualties have been inflicted by Palestinians. In the past few months, some 50 Palestinians suspected of views different to those of the PLO have been cruelly and summarily executed. When a Palestinian mayor suggested a truce for Christmas, he was publicly threatened by Arafat that he would end up with 10 bullets in his chest.

What is more, the recent Arab Summit Conference in Casablanca reaffirmed the negative position adopted by the PLO. The PLO policy from a practical point of view, from our point of view, must be irrelevant as long as they are not prepared officially to amend the Palestine Covenant which calls for the destruction of Israel.

We are by now immune to the double-talk which characterizes many of the statements issued by the PLO, each statement adapted to the audience to which it is delivered, immediately to be followed by another statement issued to another audience saying just the opposite.

Thus, Arafat publicly forswore the use of terror. However, acts of terror continue unabated. How can we tamely acquiesce in his declaration that the burning of a Jewish family on an outing in a car is a "military operation" and not an act of terror. The fact is that he does not in effect control his organization. Indeed, in addition to the break-away Abu Mussa group in Syria, components of the PLO such as Talaat Yakub, Habash's Popular Front, Khawatma, Gibril, refuse to go along with him. What validity can one give to the statements made by an individual who obviously does not control constituents of the organization which he purports to lead and represent?

I emphasize, again, that the people of Israel want nothing more than peace. I know of no way to achieve peace without negotiation with the other side. One day a great man arose in the Middle East and came forward, the late President Anwar Sadat, made his demands to the Knesset, entered into negotiations, and today buses

leave Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv daily for Cairo and vice versa.

Yes, we are moving inexorably toward peace and that is the major goal of our people, reflecting as it does the prayers of millions who cannot express themselves freely in our area, torn by fundamentalist religious fanaticism. That peace will be achieved because we want it and because the people of the Middle East want it and need it.

In the meantime, as we pursue our struggle in the ongoing search for peace, we continue to develop as a free vibrant society, which stretches out its hand seeking co-operation with all.

In a period of 41 years we have created an open, democratic society in Israel in which the dignity of man is enshrined as a supreme value. We have a free and independent judiciary, a democratically elected Parliament, a free press, and a system of universal education. We have created a highly developed system of agriculture, and an industry which is capable of producing some of the more sophisticated high technology and bio-technological engineering, supersonic planes, and some of the better medical scanning equipment existing today in the world. Israeli-manufactured items are in space ships, and in more advanced planes produced in the United States. We are one of the three more advanced countries in the world—the other two are the United States and Japan—in the development and use of solar energy. We are among the leaders in the world in the field of irrigation, desalination of sea water, and cloud seeding. We are one of eight countries of the world which has been represented in space by its own satellite.

We know our shortcomings, we know our failings, but as a free, vibrant, multi-ethnic society, we are conscious of a continuous effort to overcome them. No society is without its weaknesses, but every society must be judged by the freedom of its population to deal with these inadequacies, by the consciousness of its people of its duty to moral imperatives, and by its willingness to accept the vote of the majority in support of the Rule of Law and of the dignity of man which must be the supreme value in any modern society. Because, as Thomas Jefferson pointed out, "nothing is unchangeable but the inherent and inalienable right of man". By this