

Lane speaks for Palestinian's rights

by Heather Scott

There can be no peace in the Middle East until Israelis and the world recognize the right of Palestinians for self-determination, said Mark Lane, speaking at the Weldon Law Building on March 22.

That was the only solution discussed because Mr. Lane says no alternate solution exists, and the Palestinians will fight until justice has been achieved.

Mr. Lane, an attorney and former member of the New York State Legislature, gave a talk entitled "Prospects of Peace in the Middle East".

He did not address the civil war in Lebanon, or the Iran-Iraq war, nor did he discuss the part that Arabs as a whole could play in a peaceful resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Instead, he dealt with the Palestinian-Israeli problems and American involvement in Israel. He discussed the Americans' misguided conceptions of Israel, the powerful political implications of not supporting Israel and how he personally is attempting to seek justice for the Palestinians.

First and foremost, Lane claims that the world, and particularly Americans, have been led to believe that Israel is a democratic, secular state, when it is not.

It is a Jewish state where it is illegal for a Jew to marry a Palestinian. He told tales of censorship and corruption, of a country that had begun its life with a strict moral code and had betrayed it. Contrary to popular belief, Lane states, the Israelis have "made the country bloom with barbed wire and terror".

David Ben Gurion, the first Prime Minister of Israel, once said, "This nation will be a light among nations." This "light" has become what Lane described as a "beggar nation", whose largest income is not only charity from the United States, but misguided charity.

Donations are made to build playgrounds and schools, plant and irrigate crops, but instead the money is used to build "Israeli Defense Force staging areas."

It is Mr. Lane's opinion that the Americans who have donated so generously to Zionist Organizations should know where their money has gone.

On the West Bank are Palestinian towns and cities with elected mayors who do not govern, surrounded by luxurious Jewish settlements. According to Lane, the money for these settlements has been provided by Americans.

The Palestinians are forbidden to develop the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, said Lane, forbidden to dig wells, forbidden to improve their land.

Lane continued to cite incident after incident of Israeli discrimination against the Palestinian people, their mayors and their communities.

He went so far as to accuse the government of Israel of complicity in violent acts against prominent Palestinians.

These mayors, along with Palestinian farmers and landowners, Israeli and American Jews, including a member of the Knesset, have formed a coalition to challenge the various American-based Zionist Organizations. These organizations receive tax-exempt status

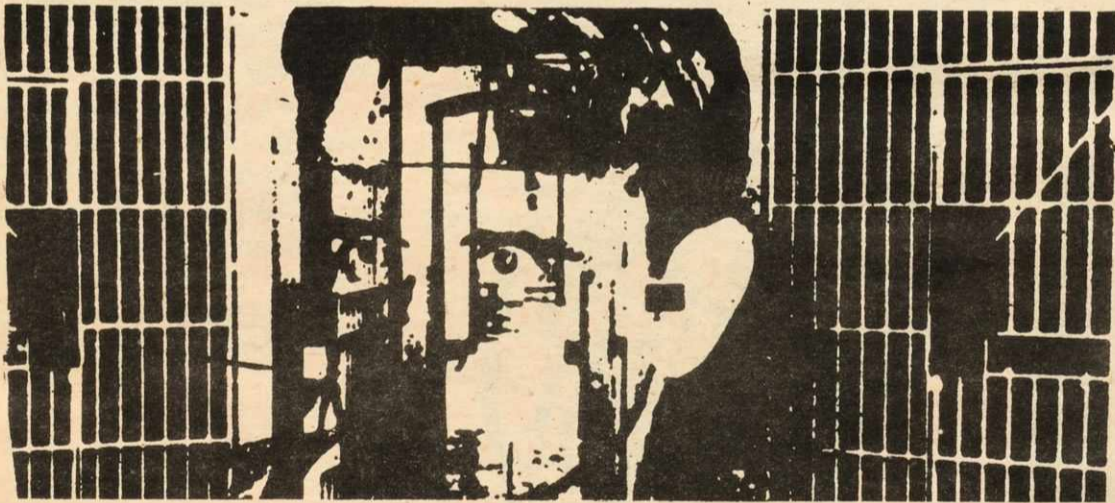
because they claim to use the donated money for charitable and educational purposes, when in fact they do not, Lane says.

Groups such as the Jewish National Fund and the United Jewish Appeal are taking large sums of donated money and using it for military purposes on the West Bank, according to Lane. A suit was filed in October, 1983 by a former United Nations official, Dr. John Davis, which enjoined the Secretary of the Treasury and Internal Revenue in the United States to revoke the tax exempt status of these organizations. Mark Lane is one of the attorneys representing the coalition.

Lane says the Americans are not the only ones who have been deceived in the process of establishing a Jewish homeland. Hertzl, one of the early founders of modern Zionism, told the Jews, "Palestine is a land without people for a people without land," and Golda Meir said "There is no Palestine."

Dr. Ismail Zayid, a pathologist with the Dalhousie Medical School, is a Palestinian. When asked what he saw as a peaceful resolution to the problem and if he agreed with Gaddafi's view that the Arabs should "push Israel into the sea", he said, "Gaddafi is not a Palestinian and not all Arabs are Palestinians." He says the Palestinians want a place to live and they will live with the Israelis but not with discrimination.

He went on to point out that for centuries Jews and Arabs had lived in relative peace and that this should be possible now.



Government enters summer with "highest of hopes" for employment

OTTAWA (CUP)—The federal government has good news for job-seeking students—employment programs this summer will be at least as effective as last summer. That means students can look forward to more than 20 percent unemployment.

Bob Burgess, the optimistic information officer for the Employment and Immigration Ministry, says federal government funding will likely provide jobs for more than one percent of all youths—not just students—who would otherwise be unemployed this summer.

"The programs are effective every year, and we can only

believe it will be the same this year," Burgess said in a Feb. 21 interview.

He said government programs, including job boards at Canada Employment Centres, will place a half million young people in jobs "one way or another."

Although the last two summers have seen unemployment figures above 20 percent for young people, he said it is impossible to tell what level unemployment will reach this time around.

"I couldn't hazard a guess," he said. "But I think it might be a pretty good summer."

"We enter the summer every

year with the highest of hopes."

But not everyone shares Burgess' enthusiasm. A Canadian Federation of Students researcher says the combination of a five percent enrollment increase at Canadian universities last year, a high unemployment rate for all Canadians and a generally poor economy will lead to heavy competition for jobs.

Employment and Immigration Minister John Roberts has hinted he may announce new funds for summer job programs, but so far the federal government has pledged only \$1.1 billion—about the same level as last year.



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