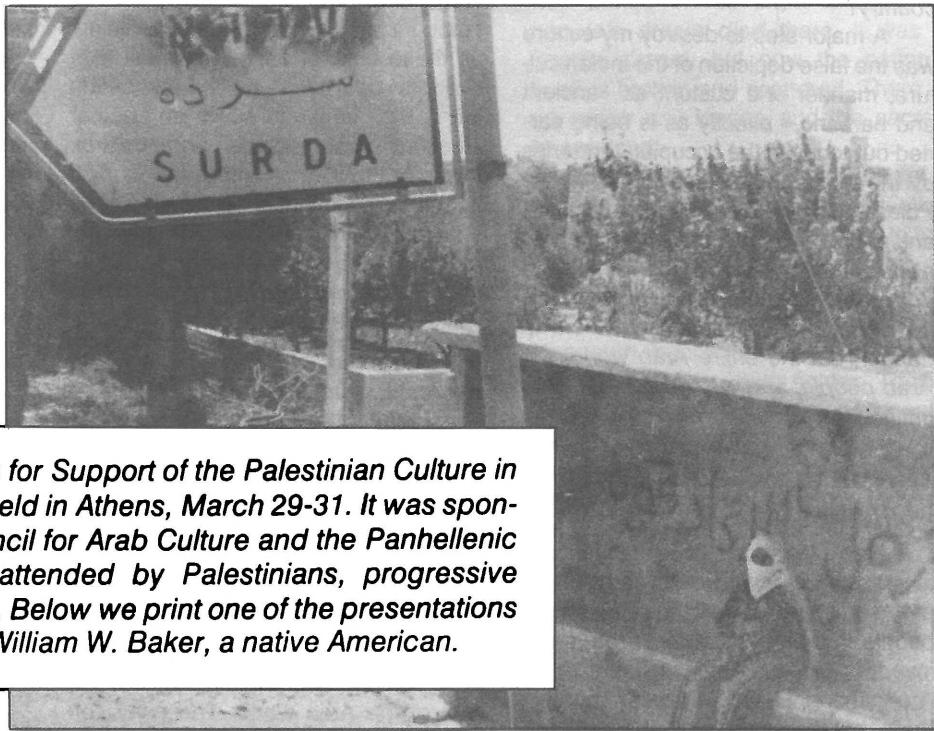


# Athens Conference on Palestinian Culture

Palestinians have marked out the Hebrew name for their village, Surda, in the occupied West Bank.



*The International Congress for Support of the Palestinian Culture in the Occupied Lands was held in Athens, March 29-31. It was sponsored by the National Council for Arab Culture and the Panhellenic Cultural Movement, and attended by Palestinians, progressive Arabs and internationalists. Below we print one of the presentations to the congress, made by William W. Baker, a native American.*

## Zionism and its attempts to assassinate the Arab culture

First of all, may I take a moment to express my sincere appreciation to the members and supporters of the Panhellenic Cultural Movement for convening this important conference, and especially for the invitation to participate and be included among such a distinguished number of caring and concerned fellow human beings.

In my book *Theft of a Nation* which reveals the theft of the land and country belonging to the Palestinian people by the Zionist Jews with the aid and support of the United States and the other European nations, I point out many simila-

rities of the cultural genocide practised against the original native inhabitants of America and the Palestinian people. These similarities are true even in the identity of the persecutors, as it was the same *ashkenazim* who arrived from Europe and began the murderous and systematic extermination of the American Indian people, as they are now doing in Palestine and the rest of the Arab world. I quote from pages 27 and 28 of my book:

«Remember, more than one million

Palestinian Arabs who still live in Palestine are true Semites! They remain today, as they have remained from the beginning, vehemently opposed to the Jewish occupation of their country. This opposition cannot be termed anti-semitism. Semites are not against Semites! Rather, the Semitical Arabs are at odds with the Zionist Jews who continue to espouse their «right to conquest» and a «national homeland» as embodied in the Zionist Manifesto of 1897. If the Arab people are anti-semitic, then native American Indians were and are «anti-American» for resisting the occupation and settlement of their land by immigrating white European pilgrims and subsequent pioneer settlers.»

I speak to you today as a direct descendant of those real and true Americans, the native (sabra) American Indians. And as a trained archaeologist and one who has studied the cultural and anthropological patterns in the Middle East, I am compelled to address my thoughts and expressions to the very real danger of cultural genocide which is now occurring to the Palestinian people and may well be experienced by the Arab people of the world. I have lived, studied and excavated in Palestine for many years, and I have witnessed this attempt to eradicate the Arab culture by

the illegal occupiers of the country, the Zionist aggressors. To convince you of the very real dangers to both the Palestinians and all other Arabs and their rich and important culture, I once again refer you to the verifiable historical events that occurred within my own cultural home and heritage, North America.

For nearly 20,000 years prior to the arrival of the first colonialists, America was inhabited by over five million natives, consisting of over 600 different tribes. Yet, within one century of the arrival of the colonialists, these innocent people were reduced to less than two million. Their calculated extermination was brought about by outright slaughter by white men and their armies; by infectious disease carried by whites and to which the native Indians had no immunity or resistance. But by far, the most effective method of decimation of the native people was by attacking their cultural roots. Once militarily in control, these foreign intruders forbid the traditional customs to be practised by the Indian people. They could no longer perform their ancient dances and ceremonies; they were no longer allowed to live their accustomed life style of moving wherever they wished, hunting and farming as they had done for centuries. ▶