

Viewpoint

AN OPEN LETTER TO YITZHAQ SHAMIR ON THE OCCASION OF HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO LONDON MAY 1989

FROM URI DAVIS

I was born in Jerusalem in 1943 and I was five years old when the state of Israel was established in 1948. By then, your organization, the LEHI (Stern Group) Zionist armed underground, had attempted to negotiate collaboration with Nazi Germany, and you yourself, as LEHI chief of operations, already had behind you actions which are classified under international law as war crimes, notably the Deir Yasin massacre.

Under UK law you are a wanted person with a reward on your head. A warrant for your arrest is still on file in London.

And yet, instead of being jailed immediately upon arrival, you will be received as official guest of Her Majesty's Prime Minister in Downing Street. You must inwardly chuckle with satisfaction.

As Prime Minister of the state of Israel you take pride in having led the Zionist LEHI organization. Indeed, it is correctly observed that as Prime Minister of the state of Israel you still embody the principles of the LEHI official political programme: the demand to the territorial borders given in the Torah (Bible) from the river of Egypt, the Nile, to the great river, the river of Euphrates; the advocacy of a so-called solution of the problem of those designated as aliens (the Palestinian Arab people) through population exchange; and the proposal to construct a Third Jewish Temple on the Holy Mount in Jerusalem as a symbol of the process of total redemption. (Quoted in Committee for the Publication of the Works of LEHI, *Fighters for the Freedom of Israel*) (Hebrew), Tel Aviv, 1959). There is no record of your renouncement of these principles.

It is often asked: how is it possible that the government of the state of Israel, which appropriated massive German reparations (741 million US\$ to be exact) as the claimed inheritor of the mass of the Jewish communities annihilated by the Nazi Holocaust can perpetrate and endorse policies of occupation and war crimes against another people, namely, the Palestinian Arab people.

Your record, Yitzhaq Shamir, as Prime Minister of the state of Israel directly responsible for war crimes against the Palestinian Arab people since the beginning of the intifada in 1987 in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is staggering: denial of supplies of fuel and electricity; arrests of many thousands; demolition of homes of detainees; illegal deportations; indiscriminate beating directed to maim and mutilate; illegal application of tear gas in confined places resulting at times in miscarriage of pregnant women; the injury of many thousands

and the murder of some 500 unarmed protesters over the past eighteen months against the Israeli occupation, mostly youth, many children under fourteen, at the rate of one person every 24 hours. Adjusted for population size, the equivalent figure in the United Kingdom would be 500 persons per month.

The truthful answer to the question: 'how is it possible...' is represented in the political career of the Prime Minister of the state of Israel Yitzhaq Shamir.

Sections of the Zionist leadership (e.g. your leader Avraham Stern) believed that in order to secure the establishment of the state of Israel it was correct to collaborate with Nazi Germany - not to mobilize with the Allies, first and foremost with the UK, for resistance to the Nazi occupation. Other sections of the Zionist leadership (e.g., Yitzhaq Gruenbaum, head of the World Zionist Organization/Jewish Agency rescue committee) believed that it was necessary to abandon the mass of European Jewish communities to annihilation rather than divert Zionist funds to finance mass rescue activities in Europe.

In 1941 Abraham Stern, the leader of the LEHI organization, sent to the German Nazi government a proposal concerning the solution of the Jewish question in Europe and participation by the LEHI in the war on the side of Germany. Against the backdrop of the mass annihilation of European Jewry the memorandum by LEHI notes that the organization recognizes that:

Common interests could exist between the establishment of a new order in Europe in conformity with the German concept, and the true national aspirations of the Jewish people... ▶

