

ZIONISM AND ISRAEL

Cooperation between the new Germany and a renewed volkishnational Hebrum would be possible, and the establishment of the historical Jewish state on a national and totalitarian basis bound by a treaty with the German Reich would be in the interest of a maintained and strengthened future German position of power in the Near East. (Quoted in Yizraeli, The Palestine Problem in German Politics 1889 - 1945 (Hebrew), Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, 1974)

Proceeding from these considerations LEHI offered to actively take part in the war on the side of Germany.

In 1943 Yitzhaq Gruenbaum, head of the World Zionist Organization/Jewish Agency rescue committee made the following statement:

And in this time in Eretz Israel there are comments: 'Do not put Eretz Israel in priority in this difficult time, in time of destruction of European Jewry'. I do not accept such a saying. And when some asked me: 'Can you not give money from keren ha-yesod [the Zionist Foundation Fund designated to fund Jewish settlement in Palestine] to save Jews in the diaspora' I said: 'No'. And again I say: 'No'... I think we have to stand before this wave that is putting Zionist activity into the second row... I think it is necessary to say here: Zionism is over everything. (Gruenbaum, *In the Days of Destruction and Holocaust* (Hebrew), Haverim Publishing House, Tel Aviv, 1946)

Those sections (mainstream or otherwise) of the Zionist political leadership, who were motivated by such ideological perspectives, were willing to compromise and betray their own people in order to promote the totally unworthwhile political programme of the establishment of a Zionist Jewish state in Palestine. They were also the sections of the Zionist leadership (both labour Zionist and revisionist Zionist) that spearheaded the birth of the state of Israel. A leadership that was willing to act in this way against its own people in order to secure unworthy Zionist political aims would not hesitate, and, indeed, did not hesitate to perpetrate war crimes against another people, namely, the Palestinian Arab people, if deemed necessary to secure these aims.

I am an anti-Zionist Israeli Jew. My position vis-a-vis the main body of Israeli Jewish society is analogous to the position of a white citizen of the Republic of South Africa who is a public opponent of apartheid. The Palestinian peace initiative attempts to reach for a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the establishment of an independent state of Palestine alongside the state of Israel, where there will be Arab citizens of the state of Israel and Jewish citizens of the state of Palestine, subject to UN Charter and all UN resolutions. By every standard, moral and political, I regard the Palestine Liberation Organization to be a superior organization to the World Zionist Organization. And I regard Yasir Arafat to be a better President of the Arab and Jewish citizens of the state of Palestine than Haim Herzog as President of the Jewish and Arab citizens of the state of Israel.

The PLO peace initiative will rightly expose you as Prime Minister and your government for what you are: staunch op-

ponents of the rights of the Palestinian people as endorsed internationally since 1947 in all UN resolutions, including the resolutions that give legitimacy to the establishment of the state of Israel alongside the state of Palestine. You and your government refuse to concede to the Palestinian people any of their internationally sanctioned rights to national territory independence and sovereignty. Your visit to the UK aims to make sure that the PLO peace initiative comes to nothing.

It remains for anti-Zionist Israeli and non Israeli Jews like myself to raise their voice and tell the truth loud and clear: Given the continued occupation by Israel of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since 1967, and, given your policies as Prime Minister of the government of the state of Israel, war against your government, like war against the government of the Republic of South Africa, is justified. It may be the only realistic means to force the state of Israel to submit to the norms of justice and universal humanity as embodied in international law and codified in UN Charter and resolutions.

How sad.

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