

At Free Speech Platform

Arab, Israeli Students Debate Palestine Dispute

By JAQI THOMPSON
Emerald Staff Writer

The Arabs blame the Israelis, the Israelis blame the Arabs, and they both blame the United Nations for the bitter, unsolved dispute over Palestine.

Arab, Israeli, and other University students argued the question in conjunction with "Palestine Day," sponsored by the Arab Students, at noon Monday at the Free Speech Platform.

The main speaker was Mike Quadumi, a senior in architecture, who also kept peace and order when strong feelings threatened to erupt into strong action.

The dispute centered on the 1948 resolution of the UN to split Palestine into two countries — one for the Israelis and the other for the Arabs.

Unfair Decision

The Arabs did not feel at the time the UN's decision was fair, nor that the UN had any right to divide what they felt was their land. Accordingly, the Arabs went to war. The Israelis won the war and, as a result, the Arabs ended up with less land than the 1948 decision would have given them, and were forced to move out of the country.

Today, from 800,000 to 1,250,000 Arab refugees are living in conditions Quadumi described as equivalent to a "concentration camp." They are living in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and in the Gaza Strip around the borders of Israel, hoping to return to this land they feel is theirs. Palestine had been the Arabs' homeland from 600 A.D. until 1948, said Quadumi.

Dividing the land is not a question of facts and reason, he continued. "The feelings of the one and a quarter million Arab people who feel this land is theirs have to be taken into consideration," he said. It is because the Israelis feel the same way about the same

land that there is such a serious need for an agreement, both sides agreed.

Resolutions Passed

Today the Arabs want to accept the UN's repartitioning plan of 1948, but say they can see no indication of agreement on the part of Israel. "The UN has passed resolutions every year implementing the 1948 resolution, and the Arabs have accepted this. We want to go back to our home. We are waiting for the green light from the Israelis," said Quadumi.

An Israeli in the audience, who challenged nearly every statement by the Arab students, replied the UN has not passed such resolutions every year. He added Israel has been willing all along to sit down and solve the refugee problem.

The Israeli expressed his doubts, however, that the problem could ever be solved as long as the UN remained as mediator. He felt the UN had "failed as an international forum. . . . The UN failed to carry out a resolution satisfactory to both factions. . . . Supposing the UN solution is really the right one, it still won't be solved as long as there is a gap between the Arabs and the Israelis."

Neil Muhtadi answered, "How can we sit down when you have no intention of compromise?"

Negotiate Without UN

In order to close this gap, which has always existed, the Arabs and Israelis must sit down together and talk without the UN as a third party, he believes.

The Israeli also questioned, if the situation had been reversed, if the Arabs would have agreed in 1948 to share one-half their land as the Israelis agreed to.

Quadumi replied he was not concerned with a hypothesis, but with the concrete problem as it exists.

Others accused the Arabs of wanting to take over the land the Israelis had tilled and cared for. Quadumi admitted the Israelis have taken care of the land, but added that that is not the reason the Arabs wanted to return to the land. The real reason, he maintained, is emotional.

In another attack on the Arabs, the Israeli asked why the Arab government was spending so much money on defense and not doing anything to improve the living conditions of the Arab refugees.

Defense Expenditures

Quadumi agreed that it was perhaps morally wrong, but that it was a practical fact that the government was forced to spend a large amount for defense purposes. The Arabs are "continually in a state of war, and it is a matter of fact we have to be prepared for," he said. "It may be senseless, but it is essential," he concluded.

He criticized the U.S. for cutting its aid to the Arab refugees. In 1962 the U.S. spent close to \$25 million on foodstuffs to give the refugees 1,500 total calories per day. The U.S. has cut that amount to \$22 million today, hoping that other nations will share in the costs.

The Arabs feel the U.S. is the main nation responsible for the 1948 injustice, and thus owes them aid. Quadumi said it is analogous to the situation of the U.S. and the American Indian. The U.S. has provided for the American Indians because it realizes it has wronged them.

The U.S. gave aid to the Arabs for the same reason, he said, because the nation's conscience demanded it.

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Graduates Ask Library Review

By JIM HUTTER
Emerald Contributor

The University Graduate Student Advisory Council has criticized the University Library and a formal investigation was requested at the council's meeting Thursday. They have recommended to University President Arthur Flemming that he appoint a panel of experts from outside the university to conduct an investigation into present library policies and practices.

The committee recommendation follows an appearance by University Librarian Carl Hintz at a committee meeting. Several subsequent meetings by a committee of the GSAC were held to discuss grievances against the library. It decided that a formal investigation was necessary, as well as making its own recommendations for changes.

The letter adopted by the full council at its Thursday night meeting reads as follows:

"In light of numerous complaints about library services, the GSAC suggests that library operation be changed along the following lines:

"Sufficient staff should be hired to eliminate current delays in the processing of acquisitions (especially periodicals), returned books, and books in the stacks that require reshelving. Equip-

ment and staff should also be found to accelerate service in the reserve book room.

"Sufficient funds should be obtained to allow the immediate replacement of lost and damaged volumes, the acquisition of several copies of stack books in high demand, as well as at least two sets of important periodicals and serials, the duplication of periodical files, the purchase of copying machines more economical to use than Xerox, the distribution each term to faculty and graduate students of lists of new books in their disciplines and the extension of library hours.

"Certain improvements should not require additional funds. These include the identification in the card catalog of books lost or on reserve, the simplification of checkout procedure, and the shelving of new books within the divisional libraries rather than on one shelf near circulation desk.

"The GSAC suggests that a committee, preferably experts from outside the University be chosen to examine these questions and recommend improvements where they seem necessary."

In other business, the committee noted that many departments and schools on campus have no representatives to the GSAC meetings on a regular basis.

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