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Series II: Harold P. Manson File (Zionism Files), 1940-1949, undated.

Sub-series A: Main Manson File, 1940-1949.

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Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1948.



Editorial  
CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER  
September 19, 1948

RESPONSIBILITY OF U.N.

In charging Israel with full responsibility for "the murder in cold blood" of Count Folke Bernadotte, United Nations mediator, Dr. Ralph Bunche, his successor, is taking an extremely technical attitude and trying, evidently to shift responsibility from the world body.

Dr. Bunche, secretary of the United Nations Trusteeship Council and before that a member of the American State Department, bases his charge on the fact that Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok and Col. Yadin of the Israeli Army, had made "prejudicial and unfounded statements concerning truce supervision."

This is a thin line on which to build such a charge. The Arabs, too, have not only made derogatory remarks about the truce supervision, but have violated it from its inception. Especially brazen has been Egypt's armed violation.

In his message to Shertok, Dr. Bunche said that Count Bernadotte's safety was the responsibility of Israel. Israel did not invite Bernadotte to the Near East. He was sent by the United Nations and responsibility for his safety would, by any impartial appraisal of the situation, seem to be the task of the United Nations.

Many delegates were of the same view when they demanded that a U.N. force be raised to supervise the truce operations. This the world body failed to do, chiefly because of the objections of the United States. The assurance was entertained that the prestige of the U.N. alone would be sufficient protection for its representatives. But the prestige of the world body had on numerous occasions been badly shaken, specifically in the case of Palestine in its failure to take more than verbal action against Arab aggression when the state of Israel was proclaimed.

Israel is just as bitter against the assassins as is Dr. Bunche. Shertok sent a cable to Secretary General Trygve Lie at Paris yesterday in which he said that his government was "outraged by the abominable assassination \* \* \* by desperadoes and outlaws who are execrated by the entire people of Israel and the Jewish community of Jerusalem, the government of Israel is adopting the most vigorous and energetic measures to bring the assassins to justice and eradicate the evil."

The government's determination was made clear by the imposition of an Israeli Army curfew -- amounting to virtual house arrest -- on the 90,000 Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem. No effort will be spared to comb out the criminals.

That the Stern gang and not the government committed the murder was revealed by the public boast of the terrorist murder band that it killed Bernadotte "because he worked for the British and carried out their orders." Hundreds of alleged members have already been arrested. This gang is as much a thorn in the side of Israel as it was to the British and now to the United Nations.

But while Israel acts with promptness -- it can be expected to do so as to not prejudice its case before the world body -- the United Nations must, as Dr. Bunche admonished, "take vigorous and positive action."



All will depend on the form of this action. If it is merely to echo Bunche's attitude and excoriate Israel for failure to give protection and thus whitewash itself nothing but further turmoil will be bred in the Near East.

If it faces up to the hard fact of its own responsibility through default, enforces a truce in which the Arab armies are removed from Israeli soil while negotiations are in progress and refuses to lend itself to the growing propaganda that Israel seeks to break the truce for aggressive purposes, it will be doing the minimum duty expected of it by those who still look to it as a peace agency. Moreover, it will be continuing the work of Count Bernadotte, who, however mistaken some of his methods and suggestions may have been, sought peace in the Holy Land.





ONE MORE MURDER

by  
T. O. THACKREY

The assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte adds another bitter, blood-red line to the savage, ever mounting record of violent murder in Palestine, for which the inflamed wretches who pulled the fateful triggers are but symbols of the harvest reaped from the field in which we as a nation have helped to plant the evil seeds of injustice.

The murder cannot be condoned. It may be understood without being excused. Assassination is the most dangerous of all political weapons, since its fatal edge is inevitably and inexorably turned to destroy those who employ it.

But if the murder of the United Nations truce delegate can neither be excused nor condoned despite the terrible consequences of the unequal truce, with what horror shall we view the full record of murder in Palestine, of which this is the latest, but inevitably not the last?

The lives of the United Nations observers previously shot down in cold blood by Arab snipers were surely no less of value because much of the world -- particularly the diplomatic world -- passed them over as "unfortunate incidents" not even to be protested, of men whose names have already been forgotten in the world's capitals, but who were no less precious to family and friends.

And if it is murder which seizes us with anguish, how shall we have emotions great enough, minds deep enough, sensibilities tender enough, to express the never ending shock of contemplating the countless hundreds -- yes thousands -- of men and women and children ruthlessly murdered in Palestine in the past ten months alone because we too, out of weakness or hostility or both, upheld the hand of the assassins who sought -- and still seek -- to destroy a nation the world was pledged to defend, and did not?

Combined British and American policy still treats the invading assassins as brothers in arms and diplomacy, and their murdered victims as though they were the aggressors rather than the defender of the homeland to which we pledged assistance and refused to aid.

Among the condolences to the family of Count Bernadotte will without doubt be those of Ernest Bevin, President Truman, Secretary of State Marshall.

We too, extend condolences, not alone to that family but to the countless families stricken by murder we could have prevented but chose to permit. To Jews whom the Arab League was permitted to slay, unchecked except by the intended victims: to Arabs needlessly ordered into slaughter by the greed, cupidity and cruelty of their masters and the diplomatic friends of their masters outside Arabia.

But how shall the condolences of Mr. Bevin and Mr. Truman read? Shall they stop with sympathy for the bereaved of Bernadotte? And if there is to be further



implied sympathy for the murdered of Israel and Arabia as well, shall polite regrets from those who share the guilt for murder cancel out their culpability for the policies which have lent an aura of respectability to murder when Jews are killed?

The world -- including the formulators of Anglo-American policy in Palestine -- is shocked at yesterday's murder. But if that shock fails to bring us to a recognition of the enormity of our guilt for every murder since we offered partition and refused to implement it, we shall have failed once more to know our responsibilities and resolve to demand a proper discharge of them.

The United States is even today encouraging neither peace nor justice in Palestine.

We will neither enforce the United Nations decision, impose sanctions on the Arab violators of the charter -- nor assist Israel in defending the invaded territory.

When Arabs invade the land we are sworn to hold inviolate -- when the armies of Transjordan batter at the gates of Jerusalem to murder the Jews we still fondly pretend are under the protection of a United Nations resolution we fostered in theory but still reject in fact -- we will not even lift our embargo on arms that the slaughter may be shortened.

Even today we support the unequal truce in the land where we have condoned murder on a mass scale, while collaborating to deprive the victims of the very soil soaked with the life stream of Israel.

How long, O Lord, how long?

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Editorial  
NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE  
September 20, 1948

### GOOD OUT OF EVIL

There is no longer any reason to doubt that Count Bernadotte was the victim of the belief on the part of a group of Jewish extremists that continued violence is the only means of achieving their aspirations for a Jewish state in Palestine. They killed the United Nations mediator because they feared he might be successful in bringing a peace to the Holy Land which would fall short of their ambitions. In so doing they grievously wounded Israel, and, for a time, at least, increased the turmoil which surrounds the new-born nation. Yet it is not impossible that the death of the peacemaker may advance the cause for which he died. Certainly it has intensified the world's demand for a definitive end to the terror which has burdened the Near East for so many tragic years.

It is the finest possible epitaph for Count Bernadotte that the sense of loss which was felt by the world community at his passing has given a great impetus to the work in which he was so selflessly engaged. Member of a caste which this modern world has generally restricted, at best, to a career of mild good works, he was led by a stern sense of duty to undertake ever more demanding and dangerous responsibilities in the service of humanity. His personal intervention, as head of the Swedish Red Cross, saved thousands from the Nazi terror, where he won the reputation for ability and integrity which led to his selection for the post of United Nations mediator in Palestine.

It was very clear that this position involved risk. There was the risk of failure, before which many would draw back. There was the virtual certainty of misunderstanding and contumely, for no mediation in the passion-ridden Holy Land could avoid arousing anger. And there was the final risk of death, which Count Bernadotte well knew dogged his mission. The manner in which he bore himself in his difficult and dangerous assignment -- hard-working, undeterred by obstacles, just -- magnified the tragedy of his murder and crystallized world sentiment for an end to the greater tragedy of the Palestine war.

The event can hardly fail to have significant repercussions within the Holy Land, not only in so far as the domestic problems of Israel are concerned, but in the larger task of achieving a lasting peace. Perhaps there are Arabs who believe that the assassination gives them an advantage in negotiations. But the existence of the Jewish state is not at the mercy of incidents and errors, however, tragic, and the Arabs will not be permitted to exploit the event to cripple Israel. As for the latter, the act of the Sternists has wholly discredited the fanatical nationalists who form the principal Jewish obstacle to a reasonable settlement. Indeed, the death of Count Bernadotte, exemplar of so many who have died in the Palestine war, convicts the extremists of all persuasions, all who have contributed to the continuance of the struggle. In that realization, is it too much to hope that good may come out of the evil of Count Bernadotte's slaying, and peace from a war which has lost all meaning?