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Zionist Organization of America, 1954.

STATEMENT OF DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER
BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD
of the ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Cleveland, Ohio
Saturday evening, January 23, 1954

The new King Saud of Saudi Arabia recently stated that Israel is like a cancer to the Arab world and that the Arab Nations would sacrifice up to ten million men in order to up-root it. King Saud's father likewise did not favor the establishment of the State of Israel, but he was smart enough not to do anything about it. He took it out in interviews. We hope that his inexperienced son will follow his father's footsteps. It would be better by far, if instead of planning to spend ten million Arab lives to wipe out Israel, King Saud were planning to spend some of his hundreds of millions of dollars of oil royalties which he received from the United States to improve the condition of the miserable, illiterate, disease-ridden Arabs in his kingdom -- millions of national wealth which he and his predecessors have been squandering upon themselves, their palaces, their luxuries, and their favorites. Wiping out Israel will not improve the lot of the millions of the exploited felahins in King Saud's empire.

This holds true also of some of the other rulers and political adventurers among Israel's neighboring Arab States who are hoping to make political capital for themselves and to gain prestige with their competitive saber-rattling against Israel by offering up an attractive scapegoat to their long suffering subjects and by turning their attention away from the miserable conditions in which they are compelled to live.

Some day the Arab peoples will come to understand that their real future lies not in war, but in political, economic, and social progress and reform and in the

raising the standard of living, of health and education of the masses--objects which can be reached with the ready and eager cooperation of Israel. Such a cooperation would make the Near East, where there is room for many times the present population, a prosperous and flourishing center of the world. The small State of Israel represents only an inconsiderable fraction of the land area of that vast territory and of its potential resources.

The Arab rulers have so far resisted every effort of Israel and the United Nations to bring about a peace settlement which would pave the way for such a constructive development which would be of mutual benefit to Israeli and Arab alike. Rather they prefer to continue the cold war, sustained tensions, economic warfare, boycott and blockade, marauding and infiltration. They prefer to obstruct any effort which the State of Israel on its own and in its own territory wishes to make in order to utilize its own water resources in order to build up its own economy or any financial aid which might accrue to Israel from agreements with other nations such as that which was recently concluded between it and Western Germany.

The Arab rulers prefer to threaten as did King Saud and before him the King of Jordan who last year declared: "With the help of God, we shall take back what was lost to us." Trans-Jordania actually gained territory with the establishment of the State of Israel! Egypt has threatened. Likewise the spokesmen of Syria. Colonel Jedid who was Chairman of the Syrian delegation on the Mixed Armistice Commission stated last February: "This land cannot hold both Arabs and Jews. There exists only one solution which we shall get: that this land shall be possessed only by the Jews or only by the Arabs."

The Arab League hopes to continue this condition of no-peace-no-war until it

feels itself strong enough for war, until Israel is so weakened by its economic burdens and the Arab States so strengthened by the arms and military aid received from the United States that it will be in a position to attack with greater success than it had in 1948.

In view of these facts, it becomes increasingly difficult to understand our own government's eagerness to send arms to the Arab States. Surely our State Department must be fully informed of these purposes and avowals of the Arab States. Surely it knows that Israel has planned and is planning no aggression against any of its neighbors and is anxious for peace, and that it has requested time and again the American Government to use its best offices to bring about peace negotiations.

What is behind this determination of our State Department to arm the Arabs whose leaders are prepared to sacrifice ten million men to wipe out Israel?

The United States helped in the creation of the State of Israel. It was the first government to recognize the newly established State. This was done in response to the overwhelming sentiment of the American people which expressed itself in a hundred ways. This political and later on material assistance which was given by our government to the State of Israel was never viewed as an act of partiality towards Israel or as an act of unfriendliness towards the Arabs. It was an act of international justice. The Arab people were likewise assisted by the United States and the Allied Nations to achieve their political independence and to set up new states and governments. They have also received financial and material aid from our government, as have dozens of other states.

Is it assumed for a moment that the arms which will be sent to them will be used by the Arab rulers to defend democracy and to fight Communist aggression? This must appear as incredible naivete to anyone who knows the history of that region. These rulers will not fight the Soviet any more than they fought the Nazis.

The weapons will be used against Israel if these rulers have their way. They have left no doubt in anyone's mind about it.

That the American Government must send them arms and at the same time show that it is unfavorably disposed toward Israel lest these States swing into the Communist orbit is a form of black mail which has been frequently employed by Arab propagandists and by their oilmen spokesmen in the United States. Communism would spell the ruin of these feudal lords. The argument is a fantastic ~~hoax~~.

The American Government has never shown favoritism to Israel. It should not now show favoritism to the Arab States at the expense of Israel and by arming them create a situation of mortal danger to the State of Israel. Israel asks no favoritism. It asks the friendly cooperation of the American government to bring about peace in that part of the world.

There are outstanding problems between Israel and its neighbors, problems of refugees, reparation and resettlement which can be solved with good will as part of the over-all peace settlement. Once the representatives of Israel and the Arab States will get around the conference table in an earnest desire to find a mutually satisfactory formula for peace, these outstanding problems will not loom as forbidding and threatening as they seem at the moment. Nothing, however, can be gained by an attitude of intransigence, by vain threats or by any expectation that the State of Israel will grow weaker instead of stronger as the years go on. It will not.

- ① Jews & World will see to it that it will not.
- ② Two tasks - concentration - (other bodies - Judaism - Hebrew - but see. Bilt - J. R. P.)
- ③ Economics - 1/2 way - less white way - magnificent job - unemployment - Poverty
inventive - It is not important to build for in our life - but it is
important to build Israel in our life - build it strong - State
- ④ Political - Org. Propag. - Finance, Middle East - shaped by J. R. P. - what
regards