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## **Letters to and from Elyas Kusa, 1950-1960**

Written in English, these documents show letters to and from Elyas Kusa between 1950-1960 about his position on Israel.

5510 San Vicente St.  
Coral Gables, Florida, U.S.A.  
Nov. 4, 1956

Mr. Elias Koussa,  
Haifa, Israel.

Dear Sir:

You will recall that about a year ago when I was in Israel you were making defamatory remarks about your country, to which I objected in the Jerusalem Post. Because of events it may be necessary to clarify certain ideas that may be in your mind. Foremost is the problem of 250,000 Arab collaborationists now in Gaza. If you are thinking of persuading Israel to make Israeli citizens of them, and I along with other Zionists believe this is in your mind, then you may as well forget it, for Israel does this she will destroy herself by accepting traitors, murderers, communists, Nazis, and Jew-haters. You see these brothers of yours as innocent people, but if you look objectively at them, and realize how all during the mandate their one thought was to drive out the Jews, and that during 1948 worked for the destruction of Israel by robbing and butchering, and then expected to take over everything, and since then have repeated these acts of violence till suddenly they pose as innocent souls - if you consider this then you will agree that the only solution is their mass removal to whatever country would be willing to accept them. Should Egypt and Arab countries not want them, then force must be applied. Israelis they shall never become for they are unworthy of citizenship, in fact unworthy of ANY country. Is this harsh? Rightly so, for again the Arabs display their loathesome character by rallying round a power-mad dictator promising them Israel's destruction. Like surgery these people must be cut off from the healthy body lest the diseased ones infect us. It is impossible to describe our feelings of hate for them, these bandits who murder innocent men, women and children; who destroy colonies; who work for our ruin.

As soon as my medical course ends, I shall return to Israel to devote my life to fighting her enemies, especially the enemy within, a people without conscience, morality, humanity, or simple intelligence. We Zionists can easily read your mind, your intentions - to make Israel accept a huge % of Arab refugees, to renounce pieces of territory, the larger the better, to give you special privileges, special schools, special everything. But your evil plans (or should I say plots?) will not succeed, now as in the past. Believe me, everything you do, everything you speak, is being noted, and when the day of reckoning comes, all these will be atoned for. You are happy at Israel's unhappy situation; you rejoice when stronger countries criticize her; you want foreign states prejudiced against Israel to have power to direct her policies, to force her to make suicidal or at best hampering concessions; you want her to make her technical progress available to a people whose treacheries are equaled only by their lack of human decency. Thus, should the English government request Israel to accept the Gaza Arabs, you would be willing to introduce these traitors into Israel, though every Jew opposed this. Should England invade Israel, you would stand aside and smile hoping Israel will be overrun. If you deny this, let me ask you: Would you have your son fight for Israel? When an Arab was asked this in parliament, he replied "No." Do you buy bonds, do you participate in the Zionist activities designed to bolster the country? Do you think of yourself first as an Israeli, or as a man whose body is in one country while his mind is in another? In the present struggle the Arab people have the opportunity to show their love and loyalty to their country, an opportunity they will do well to avail themselves of, or else face the consequences I will not now speak of. But if you decline to serve, if your loyalties are across the border, if you rejoice at Israeli casualties, if you continue to act as in the past, then you leave us no choice. Here in America Indians and negroes are treated as second citizens. Yet they have never betrayed America. But the Arabs are a thousand times guilty of treason, and must pay the penalty unless they show us that they really are loyal.

Yours truly,  
(Sgd) Bertram H. Appleby.



Haifa 15.1.1961.

Dear Mr. Zukerman,

Many thanks for your letter of the 3rd inst., acknowledging the receipt of my letter of the 18th ult. I hope that it has reached you, you would have received copy of my letter of the 6th inst., to the Mapei Secretariat about Mr. Ben Gurion's threatened resignation from the premiership. Reference to this letter has been made in the local press, but it was not published in full in any newspaper with the result that it has left unfavourable impression on the Jewish public. Many a Jew spoke to me about it with a visible sign of disapproval, presumably because they think that the matter does not concern the Arabs of Israel who should, therefore, stand apart. Jewish opinion is now sharply divided on the Ben Gurion - Lavon dispute and on Ben Gurion's vehement criticism of the Rosen Ministerial Committee. Of course, neither I nor any other Arab of Israel is interested in these tensions; but we are deeply interested to see a reasonable and well-intentioned Jewish leader direct the State affairs in a manner conducive to the achievement of peace between Israel and the Arab States. Unfortunately, only a very narrow circle of Jewish intellectuals receive with tolerance and understanding opinion of the kind expressed in my letter of the 6th instant to the Mapei Secretariat.

You are at liberty to publish the whole of my letter of the 18th ultimo, or such part as you consider expedient. I do not think my position can be rendered worse than it is at present by its publication in full. I know an Arab of Haifa whose application to visit the Old City was turned down by the Transjordan Government, but it permitted his wife and daughters to do so. Thus Transjordan, the allegedly backward country ruled by allegedly uncivilized people demonstrated a sense of justice and fairness, while Israel, the oft trumpeted bulwark of democracy run by allegedly civilized people, punished an innocent woman for the political acts and attitude of her husband. My wife has asked the Government to inform her of the reasons for the rejection of her application. She has not yet received a reply. I doubt that she will ever receive an answer.

Since writing my letter of the 18th ultimo, a new worry has appeared on the scene of Arab life in Israel. The Minister of Agriculture, Moshe Dayan, who is not less anti-Arab than his master, Ben Gurion, has tabled before the Knesset a bill entitled the Consolidation of Split Agricultural Holdings. On its face, the bill is beneficial and commendable, but upon a careful study of its provisions and its application to the actual state of Arab agricultural holdings, the immense harm that will result to the Arab farmers will at once become evident. The implementation of the bill, if enacted in its present form, will lead to the deprivation of these farms of extensive areas of their agricultural land, and, in all probability, to the transplantation of a large section of the rural Arab inhabitants from their villages to other Arab localities in the district where they live thus vacating some of the Arab villages for the settlement thereon of Jewish immigrants. Thus it will be remarked that instead of endeavouring to ameliorate the conditions of the Israeli Arabs, the Government is, in fact and in practice, leaving no stone unturned to worsen these conditions. We are now exerting every possible lawful effort to avert the impending danger.

On behalf of the Arab community of Israel, I appeal to you and through you to all conscientious men, Jewish and non-Jewish, to extend their moral support to prevent the enactment of this disastrous bill.

Sincerely yours,

*Y. K.*