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A Letter from Humphry Walz, 1958

Printed in English, this document features a letter from Humphry Walz on 5 March 1958, responding to Mr. M. Bernstein's article entitled " The Arab-Israeli Conflict" in which he shows sympathy with the Jews immigrants following the actions of Hitler in Germany. In his letter, Walz points out that if the article's writer showed the same sympathy with the Palestinian refugees they wouldn't have been forcibly left their homelands due to Zionists.

March 5, 1958

Opinion of the People
Chicago Sun-Times
211 W. Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois

Re: letter on Feb. 27 editorial page

Dear Sir,

Mr. M. Bernstein's letter titled "Arab-Israeli Dispute" shows genuine compassion for refugees.

It is my own personal belief that had such compassion been expressed more vigorously by the free countries, including our own, during and after the last war, the resulting widespread hospitality toward Hitler's victims would have reduced greatly the pressure of Jewish flight into Palestine and there might never have been a displacement of the Arab Palestinians to make room for the newcomers.

I am sure Mr. Bernstein would have an equal compassion for the Arab refugees if he were as fully informed of how their plight was created. Although more recent Israeli statements on the subject create the impression, which he accepts, that the Arabs did not leave from Israel until the inception of the Arab-Israeli war on May 14-15, 1948, a study of statements made at the time by such leading Zionists as Weizmann, Begin and Ben-Gurion indicates that virtually all Arabs, both Moslem and Christian, had been driven before that date from the area assigned by the UN as a Jewish state. As Israel expanded after that date still more found themselves homeless and remain to this day dependent on the hospitality of the adjacent Arab nations and on the generosity of the UN, especially the US.

His reference to the Mufti of Jerusalem as having influenced Hitler to murder European Jews has been widely stated but I have never been able to find confirming evidence. What seems to be demonstrable is that Hitler, on the basis of Zionist writings from the Nineteenth Century onward, convinced the Mufti that an Allied victory would mean eviction

of the Arabs from all of Palestine and thus enlisted him in the Nazi cause. Whatever the sins of the Mufti, however, the fact that he was an Arab hardly justifies rendering a million Arabs (half of whom are under sixteen) homeless.

If, instead of backing the stimulated migration of Jewish refugees (along with non-refugee recruits) into Palestine, we were, even at this date, to set a world example of greater hospitality to all refugees, including Jews, not only would the Palestinian situation be eased but our influence amidst aggressive Communism and rampant nationalisms would contribute more fully to lasting peace. Incidentally, it would be a most rewarding experience as my family has discovered through sponsoring for immigration into the U.S. four families of refugees from Nazism, one from Communism and one from Palestine.

Sincerely,

L. Humphrey Wals

LHW:ml