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محرر صحيفة الرقابة في اسرائيل"، رسالة من إلياس كوسا إلى جيروساليم بوست، تموز ١٩٦٠

محرر صحيفة رسالة مطبوعة باللغة الانجليزية من إلياس كوسا إلى
الرقابة على جيروساليم بوست بتاريخ ١٩ تموز ١٩٦٠ بخصوص موضوع
الرقابة في اسرائيل هي الصحافة في اسرائيل، والرد على إدعاء الصحيفة بأن
سياسية. رقابة عسكرية تتعلق بالأمور الأمنية وليست رقابة

ELIAS H. KOUSSA,
ADVOCATE,
P.O.B. 14,
HAIFA.

18th July, 1960.

The Editor of The Jerusalem Post,
P. O. B. 81,
Jerusalem.

Dear Sir,

In your comment on the letter of the Chairman of the Foreign Press Association in Israel, asserting that "there is censorship of the local and foreign press, and an official one", you claimed that there was no political censorship, but a military censorship which applies only to security matters.

I think your claim is not correct. In the brochure entitled "three unpublished letters" which I recently printed and distributed, the following sentence as well as every other phrase or word indicating the existence of an agreement between France, the United Kingdom and Israel to launch the Sinai campaign were deleted by the Censor:-

"Mr. Ben Gurion ordered the attack on Egypt when he agreed on its launching with two of the three big Powers which undertook upon themselves, under the Tripartite Declaration, to prevent the outbreak of war between Israel and the Arab States, to preserve the existing boundaries and not to allow the alteration thereof by the use of force and violence. Sir Anthony Eden's memoirs unveiled the facts showing how the conspiracy was broached and organized. Mr. Ben Gurion carried out, faithfully and honestly, the part allotted to the Israeli forces."

As the deleted sentence was essential for my reply to Bishop Hakim's doctrine that no Arab in Israel should write the words "the drunkenness of the alleged victory in the treacherous tripartite attack", I redrafted it as follows, but the Censor struck out the underlined words:-

"These facts which indicate the synchronization and co-ordination of the Sinai campaign with the attack launched by the two colonial Powers sufficiently show the treacherous character of the attack....."

I decided to omit the whole sentence and replace them by dots. The printer informed that the Censor had issued strict instructions against this method. I, therefore, inserted the sentence dictated by the Censor.

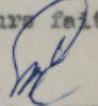
It is evident that the deleted sentence did not deal with any matter of security. The question whether there was prior agreement between Israel and the two imperialistic powers to launch the Sinai campaign is of historical interest and cannot possibly undermine the security of the State, especially as it was referred to by Sir Anthony Eden in his memoirs and was the subject of careful and minute study by independent investigators. It follows that there is, as Mr. Fabian Lacombe said, censorship of the local press.

In Egypt it is highly imperative that there should be strict censorship. President Abdul Nasser whom the Jewish, Zionist and colonial press, ^{and leaders} are wont to describe as dictator, and his faithful collaborators are pulverizing a vicious system of life which has been in existence for centuries and destroying vested interests of an influential corrupt minority that had in its grip the overwhelming peasantry stricken with poverty, disease and ignorance and also with religious fanaticism. To allow the Egyptian press

and for that matter, the Syrian press whose owners and editors formed part of the perverse minority, unrestricted freedom is tantamount to killing the aforesaid noble aim in the bud. It should be borne in mind that this so-called Dictator and his colleagues have already made great achievements and are still making indefatigable efforts for the development of the country, the improvement of social conditions, the betterment of the standard of living of the peasantry and other classes of the population as well as for the establishment of social justice. They are gradually but surely preparing the inhabitants to accept and practise democracy in its true meaning and vibrant spirit. This, of course, requires time but it will be achieved.

In the circumstances, it is neither just nor fair to make any comparison between Israel and Egypt in this respect. The realities of the two countries are widely divergent.

Yours faithfully,


E.N. KOUSSA.

