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"The National Whirligig", a Newspaper Clipping, 1958

A newspaper clipping of an article entitled "The National Whirligig" by Ray Tucker which was published in 1958 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the establishment of Israel and to report on the situation of Palestinians in Israel, as well as the issue of Palestinian refugees.

The National Whirligig

By Ray Tucker

(Editor's Note: Israel will soon celebrate the tenth anniversary of its independence. Ray Tucker is visiting Israel to report on the progress that has been made, as well as on future prospects.)

NAZARETH — This mountainous city where Jesus Christ lived for 27 years repudiates His gospel of Christian brotherhood by being the stronghold of Communist activity and philosophy in all Israel.

Two of the members of the National Legislature (the Knesset) represent in a general way the districts that include the caves which once housed the Holy Family, Joseph's carpentry shop and the below-ground dwelling of St. Anne, Mary's mother. It was here that the Angel Gabriel delivered the fateful message that Mary was to become the mother of the Messiah.

The Israeli government, however, has a unique way of handling the Communists. It undoubtedly explains why they have no real strength and constitute no threat. It ignores them completely.

When a Red orator in the Knesset assails the West and urges Israel to make terms with the hostile Arabs, the parliamentary reporter dutifully records his speech. But the next speaker resumes debate of the pending motion or question as if there had been no interruption. The newspapers do likewise.

Nazareth's Arab Mayor and City Council—Another surprising discovery on a visit to this religious shrine is the fact that Nazareth is an Arab citadel, politically. Of the 23,000 inhabitants, 13,000 are Arab Christians and most of the rest are Moslems.

The mayor and the members of the City Council are also Arabs of Christian faith. In fact, the guide who escorts tourists through these holy places, and who explains them so accurately and earnestly that he might have lived during the dawn of Christianity, is an Arab.

Unlike the 800,000 refugees who fled into the desert, and now constitute one of the basic conflicts between Israel and the Arab states, 200,000 Arabs remain in Israel.

They apparently did not trust Arab politicians' declarations that the Israelis would be crushed, and that they would soon return and rule as conquerors. They also pre-

ferent cultural and economic levels. But they trade and talk with each other in the crowded and noisy market place, in restaurants, and have endless curbstone conversations. Here, the men talk while the women do the work both in the fields and in the homes.

The government has recently taken steps to improve the lot of an estimated 8,000 refugees in Nazareth. Although they have a subsistence sort of employment, they live in sub-standard rooms and ramshackle tenements.

To remedy these conditions, the Ben-Gurion regime has set aside \$5,000,000 for a three-year program of building more homes, resettling industries in which they can be employed.

prosperous and stable Israel rather than to suffer the poverty and privations of their brethren in Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

Arabs and Israeli Friendly—Relations between the Israelis and the Arabs in Nazareth and elsewhere are normal and friendly. They do not mingle socially, for they live on dif-

