

# CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Up to this date in the 20th century, Peace appears to have successfully eluded the grasp of nearly every country in the world. There have been so many conflicts, both small and full-scale, that throughout the last seventy years it seems as though not one moment has gone by without a gunshot. The situation currently confronting us has thus far followed this pattern. Now that Vietnam is slowly on the way out, the deterioration of relations between the perpetually antagonistic peoples of Israel and the U.A.R. is likely to provide the world with its next war. Such recent terrorist incidents as the seemingly unprovoked attacks by Israeli commandos on an airport in the neutral country of Lebanon and the public hanging of nine Israelis accused of "espionage" by the Government of Iraq have made the Middle-East a real powder-keg. The fact that the U.S.S.R. backs the Arabs and the U.S.A. backs the Jews gives world-wide importance to the situation. While the Camel-Riders and the Jews fight it out, I present a two-part essay concerned with the history of these peoples-man attempt (however meager) to provide a better understanding of their reasons for constant battling.

As we understand, the roots of Judaism and its subsequent history up to the time of Christ are found in the Old Testament of the Bible. Ancient Jewish History was generally one of hard luck and persecution, of conquering, and being conquered, then being exiled, only to return and rebuild, which has been true in modern times. It is seen in the present-day Jews, as well as in the history books, that these Semitic people are a proud, intelligent, industrious, and, most important, deeply religious lot. The predominating concept in the history of the Jews is the prophecy by Abraham that the land which is now Israel was destined by God to be "The Promised Land" in which the Jews would meritably prosper and grow. One century after the death and resurrection of that altruistic socialist who believed in the absolute equality of man, the Jews were dispersed throughout the world by the Romans where they lived for nineteen centuries amid bigotry, persecution, and fortune, waiting for their supreme prophecy to be fulfilled. Now that the Jews have obtained their Promised Land, they will not capitulate without a struggle.

The history of the Moslems is quite different from that of the Jews, though both Semitic tribes originated in the same area. Since most Arabs considered both religions foreign, they remained pagan throughout the ordeal of Christianity and Zionism. It was not until

the years circa 570-632 A.D., when Mohammed lived, that the Arabs zealously accepted the concept of one god and the ethical codes of Mohammedanism. The Islamic religion united these traditionally disunited peoples, and for centuries, under their religion, the Arabs controlled an empire larger than that of Rome and established intellectual and cultural centers that surpassed those in Europe. However, the culture stagnated under the Ottoman Empire much as did China under their Dynasties. The British then moved in and began to colonize the Arab world. Through a number of political moves to control the Arabs the British, as well as France and Italy created a bitterness among the natives toward imperialism. It is no surprise therefore that in 1917 when the British decided by law to re-establish Israel in its former location, the Arabs looked belligerently at the move as an imperialistic attempt to "divide and conquer" their people.

In fact, the first real antagonistic confrontations between these peoples did not occur until after 1917. Until then, the Arabs were very tolerant of the few Christians and Jews who had remained in the Holy Land. The Jews themselves wanted only peace after arriving at their homeland. However, they did not wish to relinquish their land to the Jews or anyone else who claimed Arab territory to be originally theirs. The Italian Fascists got the same reaction from the Mohammedans when they claimed that Libya had been theirs since the time of Caesar. The Arabs also felt no obligation to believe in Abraham's divine prophecy for Zionists since Palestine was the Holy Land of the Mohammedans as well. Though sympathetic with Jewish persecution during the war, the Arabs decided that the Europeans should atone for their crimes, not the tolerant Mohammedans.

It is clear that this problem, which has made the Arabs bitter and Jews defensive, is neither religious nor cultural but mainly political. Since there exists nothing worse than a bitter Arab, some of the manifestations of these deep-seated problems have been drastic. They will be discussed next week.

(A PLEA TO STUDENTS from pg. 4)

repair details in the bigger problems. That's how honesty and sanity survive in that cruel world that awaits us. I am not suggesting cowardly compromise. I am suggesting the tenacity that accomplishes gradual betterment rather than sporadic upheavals that injure more than they heal.

My wish is that we may learn to function in our more complex environment. This complex professional society that we will shortly enter

## FROM ME TO YOU - WITH LOVE

by Tony Sparger

Listen to the night with me  
I speak to you in silence-  
Can you hear?

For every tear I see, I weep a handful  
But not till you've turned away  
Why can't I run up to you  
Fall on my knees at your feet  
And say I LOVE YOU --

Or squeeze your hand  
To send my strength through you  
And say I UNDERSTAND  
And know you know I feel it  
--And nothing more be said

(We so cherish our freedom  
That we will not spend it  
And thus we waste it)  
...If I should pass you tomorrow  
Watching my feet as I walk  
It's not that I don't care  
It's just my fear

But if you look back at me  
You'll see that I fall just beyond  
And match my tears with yours

I know that I can share my truth with you  
And know you see my thoughts  
But I'm still a child sometimes  
And cannot yet trust myself  
To trust you

If only you could hold my mind  
In the moment that the fire burns reddest..  
It's only when I'm alone  
That I realize who you are  
But I have to wait for you  
And plan what I will say  
And then my fever wanes  
And I cannot look at you to speak

(It's so easy to love  
And so hard to say it  
Yet if I say it now  
Believe me  
And when I walk in silence  
You'll remember that I said it once  
And meant it  
And cannot say more)

But if I should have courage today  
--Meet your eyes and look  
We've given each other the secrets  
of the universe  
And need not speak at all

You'll be the one  
Who broke the jealous chains  
That guard my words

isn't going to be the great place,  
when we get there, that some of us  
want so badly. We'd better start  
learning right now how to cope with  
our ideals.

by Bob Saave