

August 19, 1994

Letter to the Editor

### THE PALESTINIAN 'WHITE PAPER'

IN his article jointly written with Amos Kollek, "A pinch of pragmatism goes a long way" (August 5), it was surely foolhardy of Teddy Kollek to recall the relations between the Zionist establishment and the British Mandatory Government in its final years. He refers, in breathtaking understatement, to the way "we quickly forgave" the British who were "responsible for thousands of Jews dying needlessly during and after World War II ... history of the "Season" (the hunt for IZL and LHY members by the Hagana on behalf of the British.)

THE CONTINUATION of that history is fascinating. After the end of World War II, in 1945, Zionist leaders realized that they had blundered. They agreed then to join with the IZL and the LHY in a campaign of resistance to the British. This lasted until mid-1946, when the British cracked down on a number of Zionist leaders.

They were detained - until they undertook to refrain from further resistance (IZL and LHY continued the struggle till the British were in fact forced to leave Palestine). It was the Zionist establishment's decision to stop the resistance to the British that led to Moshe Sneh's resignation in disgust from the leadership of the Hagana. Precisely while his leaders were in detention, Mr Kollek wrote a letter to the British journal *New Statesman and Nation* (August 10, 1946), in which he boasted: "In my capacity as liaison officer between the Jewish Agency, which was actively and consistently working to break the terror, and the Palestine authorities," he passed on the information "in the usual way" which led to the finding of two batteries of mortars which, Kollek asserted, had been trained by the IZL on the British headquarters in the King David Hotel, as well as other similar information designed to undermine the Jewish resistance.

There is a motive for Kollek's initiative. Just as "we" quickly forgave the British, so now he demands that we forgive the Arabs. He seems unaware of the full chilling impact of the parallel that he evokes.

The British had their White Paper promising the doom of Zionism, death to the Jewish State by shutting the gates of Palestine to Jewish immigration. The Arabs have their "White Paper" - the Palestinian Covenant which proclaims the destruction of the Jewish State, and indeed, the expulsion of most of the Jews living in it. The British never budged from their purpose envisaged in the White Paper, but continued to enjoy the "forgiveness" and the collaboration of the Zionist leaders.

The Arabs have not budged one inch from the Palestinian Covenant, have continued their daily campaign of murder of Jews (now carried out by Palestinians who call themselves "Hamas") and enjoy the lively collaboration of the Israeli government in implementation of this, the first phase of the dismantlement of Israel. Their collaboration goes so far as to dissimulate, and lie, and cover up the Arabs' lethal purpose. What indeed could be more forgiving?

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