

Feb. 13, 2011

Mr. Rex Murphy.

Cross-Country Check-up,

CBC

Dear Mr. Murphy,

Thank you for the interesting program you conducted this afternoon.

Unfortunately, for me, the phone line was repeatedly engaged every time I called!

However I would like to make the following two points:

First, one of the Israeli callers, calling from Canada, made some negative remarks about Arabs and their understanding of democracy, and they don't understand true democracy as practiced here or in Israel. This racist remark is frequently used in the West, and I think the Egyptian people have shown during the last three weeks the most compelling and genuine interest and sacrifice for real democracy. Furthermore their understanding of democracy must be their own choice and does not need to be a replica of American or Canadian democracy.

As to Israeli democracy, I am happy that we do not practice that democracy here in Canada. Israeli democracy is selective and applicable for Jews only. It is not applied to Muslim and Christian citizens of Israel. Israeli laws explicitly show blatant racism against non-Jewish citizens, as confirmed by all international and Israeli human rights organisations.

Secondly, The same caller spoke of the June 1967 war and ascribed to President Nasser a statement as to "throwing the Jews into the sea." This statement has been used by Israeli propaganda and has been shown by numerous independent bodies to be a complete falsehood, and Israelis have been challenged to show evidence of that, but failed to do that. Furthermore, the caller referred to the Egyptians joy at that war. The facts are that Nasser had no plans for that war, which was planned and effected by Israel, as confirmed by the statements of Israeli leaders at the time, as you see here:

Yitzhak Rabin, chief of staff of the Israeli army at the time, stated : " I do not think Nasser wanted war. The two divisions he sent to the Sinai would not have been sufficient to launch an offensive war. He knew it and we knew it." {*Le Monde*, Feb.28,1968}.

Prime Minister **Levi Eshkol** stated : " The Egyptian layout in the Sinai and the general military build up there testified to a military defensive Egyptian set-up, south of Israel" [Israeli daily *Yediot Ahronot*, Oct. 18,1967].

Modechai Bentov, an Israeli cabinet minister at the time, stated: " All this story about the danger of extermination [of Israel in June 1967] has been a complete invention and has been blown up *aposteriori* to justify the annexation of Arab territory" [*Al Hamishmar*, 14 April 1972, and quoted in *Le Monde*, 3 June 1972].

Menachem Begin, a cabinet minister in June 1967, stated, while prime minister, addressing Israel's National Defence College, on Aug.8,1982, : " In June 1967, we again had a choice. The Egyptian army concentrations in the Sinai did not prove Nasser was really about to attack us. We must be honest with our selves. We decided to attack him" [*The N.Y. Times*, Aug.21,1982].

I think our public do not deserve to have these kind of insinuations and falsehoods, in a program like this.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.