

May 19, 2011

The Editor,

The Chronicle Herald

Dear Editor,

Larry Riteman, May 19 letter, contests my statements, May 14, about the historic facts related to the Palestine/ Israel conflict. Every Stament I made is historically accurate and the historic record confirms that, including the stements made by Israel's and earlier Zionist leaders.

Mr. Riteman claims that that the land of Palestine legally belongs to the Jewish people, as recognised by Brittain. The land of Palestine did not belong to Brittain to give it away. The renowned Brittish historian, Professor Arnold Toynbee, stated, in reference to the Balfour Declaration of Nov. 2, 1917, : " We [the Brittish] were taking it upon ourselves to give away something that was not ours to give. We were promising rights of some kind in the Palestinian Arabs' country to a third party." Similarly, the well-known Jewish author, Arthur Koesler, summed it up aptly when he described the Balfour Declaration as a document in which: "One nation promised a second the country of a third."

The Palestinian people of today are the descendents of the Canaanites, Jebusites and other tribes that lived in this land since history began and long before the Hebrew tribes invaded the Land of Canaan and were driven away by other invaders, the Romans. The Jewish Professor Maxime Rodinson, Professor of History, Sorbonne University in Paris, confirms that: "The Arab population of Palestine was native in all the senses of the word and their roots in palestine can be traced back at least forty centuries." [Maxime Rodinson. [*Israel and The Arabs.*" Pelican. 1968].

I think the facts speak for themselves.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD