

Sept. 4, 2011.

The Editor,

The Chronicle Herald.

Dear Editor,

The catalogue of falsehoods, that Mike Fegelman pours out [Sept.4], defies credibility. The P.L.O. gave recognition to Israel in 1988. The Arab States offered Israel full recognition, in 2002, in return for withdrawal from all territories illegally-occupied, since 1967. The so-called withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, in 2005, is a charade. Gaza was placed under land, air and naval siege, converting it into an open prison, as recognised by all international and Israeli human rights groups. As to negotiations, the Palestine Authority has been negotiating with Israel for two decades, while Israel continues its oppressive occupation and the creation of illegal Jewish settlements on Palestinian land, in violation of international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention. It is Israel which has been demanding unacceptable conditions, including the annexation of East Jerusalem and the continued occupation of the Jordan Valley and the denial of any viability to the promised Palestinian state.

The claim that Egypt, Syria and Jordan aggressively launched a war against Israel, in 1967, is a total falsehood. It was Israel that waged that war. as confirmed by the then Israeli leaders. Their statements confirm that:

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}.

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 *a posteriori* to justify the annexation of Arab territory" [*AI 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 still think that the Herald's readers deserve a small measure of honesty in your published material.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.