

Sept. 6, 2011

The Editor,

The Chronicle Herald.

Dear Editor,

The letters, by Mark David and Larry Riteman [Sept. 6], and Mike Fegelman [Sept.4] about my letter [Sept.1], are a mass of falsehoods that must be answered.

The claim, by Messrs Riteman and Fegelman, that the Arabs launched a war of annihilation against Israel in June, 1967, is a total falsehood, as confirmed by Israel's own leaders at the time:

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 buildup 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 a posteriori to justify the annexation of Arab territory.**" (Al Hamishmar, April 14, 1972, and quoted in Le Monde, June 3, 1972)

Menachem Begin, a cabinet minister in 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 ourselves. We decided to attack him.**" (The N.Y. Times, Aug. 21, 1982) .

Mr. Riteman states that: "Israel ***gave*** [my emphasis] to Egypt, Syria and Jordan 95% of the territories it had conquered in 1967". This is ridiculous. To return a portion of stolen property to its owners is hardly a praiseworthy act. The illegally-occupied territory must be completely and unconditionally returned to its owners, in compliance with international law and repeated Security Council resolutions.

The map on my website, that Mark David refers to, is a map of historic Palestine. That is a fact and cannot be denied, and the existence of the state of Israel, on a large portion of the land of the historic Palestine map, is a fact and cannot be denied.

I still believe that the Herald's readers deserve a measure of balanced facts.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.