Observations Concerning Palestine and the Arab Countries

The situation in Palestine is fluid, with military, economic, financial, and religious factors all playing a role. The situation in the remainder of the Arab countries is also complex, with Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon all involved. The United Nations has been unable to broker a peace agreement, and the conflict continues.

On June 8, 1948, Israel declared its independence, breaking away from the United Arab Republic. The Arab states responded with a military campaign, leading to the Six-Day War. The conflict has been characterized by both military escalation and diplomatic efforts to seek a resolution.

The United States has been a key player in the conflict, providing military and financial support to Israel. The Arab states have received aid from the Soviet Union and other Eastern Bloc countries. The conflict has had a profound impact on the region, with ongoing ramifications today.

The situation remains volatile, with both sides claiming their right to self-determination. A lasting peace agreement has eluded negotiators, with disputes over territory and the status of Jerusalem remaining unresolved.

The underlying issues of the conflict, including the Palestinian refugees, the rights of the Palestinian people, and the future of the territories, continue to be points of contention. The international community remains divided on how to approach the issue, with some calling for a two-state solution and others advocating for a one-state solution.

The United Nations continues to work towards a peaceful resolution, but the road ahead is uncertain. The complexities of the conflict, along with the involvement of external actors, make finding a solution challenging. The situation requires continued diplomatic efforts and a commitment to finding a lasting peace that addresses the needs of all parties involved.
II. A Long-Range Disaster

The area annexed of the State of Israel by force, with intimidation of Arab government by the US and the UNR, withthe seizing of British arms and ammunition (the Arab's only source of supply), with supply sources for Israel of munitions and finance, the Israeli battle victory is complete, but it has solved nothing. If boundaries to an Israeli State, any boundaries, had been set and guaranteed by the Great Powers, peace might return to the area. On the contrary, we face actually a victorious state which is limited to no frontiers and which is determined that no narrow limits shall be set. The Near East is faced with almost certain prospect of a profound and growing disparity between Israeli influence and the E.U. and the United Nations.

(a) Instead of restoring the boundaries of the Province of Judea as they were in 70 A.D., the Israeli leadership claim a state, though usually unofficially, their demand for a state, although imperious. Their present possessions are regarded as the Jewish possession in the Arab and Muslim World --- a large area in the heart of the Arab world. They are not prepared to live any longer within any limitations.

(b) The idea of the state of Israel is given to 5000 of what it was before 1936-1939. Fearing driven out the Arabs from their home, Israel lacks cheap labor and without a very large per capita subsidy the state would soon collapse. But, the Israeli Government has not been trying to maintain to secure funds from Zionists and other capitalists, nor has it been able to secure the working of the immigration and industries areas.

(c) In 1948-49, a British was working on a plan to restore a balance between the forces in Palestine, but it is already apparent that this plan is doomed to fail as a result of pressure in the USA and in the United Nations. All Israel’s determination to prolong its independence and the withdrawal of British and American aid and the partitions by the British Government and the United Nations has been met with success.

(d) Evaluation. This disaster is guaranteed by the unresolved problem of refugees. The refugees are fed, clothed, and provided for the time being, but they remain as a primary source of resentment. A preliminary plan has been proposed for the repatriation of all refugees to Israel. The US and the UN order to be spent for compensation, but have not been accepted by the Arab League. The Arab League has failed to be helpful. The refugees have been perceived by Israel as a threat and as a source of instability, which may lead to further wars. The policies of the Arab League and the Arab League states have been criticized, and they are perceived as a threat to the peace, stability, and security of the region.

Since the Arab military defeat and the complete shift of the Arab position in the United Nations, Israel has practically disappeared as a political factor. The several Arab countries are unable to agree on a common line of action, and the Middle East is a region of political and military instability. The Arab League states have failed to come to a common position on the issue of Israel, and the regional situation remains tense and uncertain.
The United Nations is already completely discredited in the minds of the Arab Governments and the Arab peoples. There are many reasons for this, but the evidence usually cited is the failure of the UN or the Mediator to enforce UN orders to Israel. (For example:)

(a) To prevent armed Czechoslovakian airplanes from reaching Israel.
(b) To prevent the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, although their identity is known to hundreds of Jews.
(c) To repatriate or compensate over half a million refugees.
(d) To permit UN observers with Israeli forces when they are on the offensive.
(e) To restrict the lines occupied at the October 14 "cease fire" period.
(f) To evacuate areas given to the Arabs by the UN proposal of November 29, 1947, although at the same time insisting upon dividing the Negeb, to excuse which they quote the same UN partition proposal. (The Arab areas, occupied in defiance of the UN, include Western Galilee, Jaffa, Nazareth, and villages over the Lebanon frontier.)
(g) To respect the international character of the Jerusalem area.

V. Russia's Purpose

Although Russia has officially sided with Israel she is actually in the side of disorder and hunger. Russia and her satellites armed Israel to an extent few people in the United States understand, but Communists are also active among the Arabs. They may upset the Jewish Government at any time; they have succeeded in establishing contact with the President of Syria to whom overtures have been made; they have captured the leadership of Arabs in Nazareth, Jaffa, and Acre, who are despairing of any effective help from Arab countries and are turning to Communism. (In Nazareth, for example, no one can hold or get a job without the permission of the Communist boss.) The USSR will help Israel expand until the Arab Governments, as well as Jewish and American policies are completely paralyzed. It is only when these leaders decide whether to make a puppet of the Zionists or of the Arabs that the situation in the Near East continues to degenerate. Russia may find both parties begging for the honor. The Prime Ministers of two Arab countries told me they had reason to believe that, blocked in Western Europe, Russia will direct her Cold War to the "soft underbelly" of the Near East.

P.S. To the identity of persons whose opinions are given in the text below...
SUMMARY OF CONVERSATIONS BY CERTAIN PERSONALITIES MADE IN PRIVATE INTERVIEWS — December 17, 1948 to January 19, 1949.

Key Designation

A. "Propaganda has fallen; the UN has failed; the Arabs are divided. What is the use of empty threats by Parouk, Iba Saud, etc., when there is nothing they can deliver?"

"Abdulla at least has a program. No one else is acting effectively. He is the lesser of evils, although he is not reliable himself. But he might stop the Jews."

"Syria suffers from no program. There is profound discontent, a demand for a real economic program. Otherwise the country will be bankrupt and in chaos."

"Only a Greater Syria will provide the economic means to enable the northern Arab countries to avoid revolution and escape Communist domination. This Greater Syria, however, should not be under the crown of Abdulla of Transjordan, but under the crown of the King of Iraq, with viceroys representing him in Syria, Transjordan, and Palestine."

"The northern countries cannot hope for support from Egypt or Saudi Arabia from which they are separated physically by Israel and by the unreliable British puppet, King Abdulla. In spite of the infiltration of Iraq by Communist propaganda, I feel sure that Iraq is more secure than Egypt, where the Muslim Brotherhood will continue its assassinations, and where King Parouk keeps a plane fueled up for a quick departure to his happy hunting grounds in Rhodesia."

B. "I have no confidence in the new Syrian Government. Syria cannot be saved by a reshuffling of the same faces in the government — most of whom are content to hold office and draw salaries. Syria cannot be lifted from its demoralized condition after the Palestine defeats, or preserved from the threat of bankruptcy and of civil strife unless there is a profound reform and a constructive economic program reaching and benefitting the common people. So far as Aleppo is concerned, we have no reason to believe that the new Syrian Government will be any better than its predecessors."

C. "The last chance for a peaceful and reasonable solution of the Major Power was the Bernadotte Proposal for the frontiers between Israel and Arab Palestine. At that time I still believed that there was a chance for UN officials and the general American public to consider limiting Israel to reasonable frontiers which would leave in Arab hands the principal centers of Arab population. Unfortunately no Major Power supported the Bernadotte Plan. After Bernadotte's assassination, I spoke with the two top men responsible about the solution I have described, and both said, "Yes, that is a very sensible plan and a very fair solution if it could be arranged." But nothing ever happened about it. It was like a subject of the weather — which Mark Twain said everybody talks about but no one does anything about."

D. "Strange as it may seem to you, I now favor the partition of Palestine. Convinced as I am that the Zionists will continue their aggressive policy of expansion in the effort to exploit the Arab World, I think we Arabs are much better off to have Israel behind definite frontiers resulting from partition than to have to include the Zionists in a single State of Palestine and have them, with their propaganda and endless financial resources, gradually work from within Arab Councils and the Arab League to undermine Arab interests. I believe it is better to have your enemy in a neighboring lot with a fence between, behind which he is supposed to stay, than it is to have him as a part owner of your own farm with freedom to roam all over your own house and property."
I. "I am concerned about nepotism in the Saudi Arab Government, especially with regard to the Royal Family and the Minister of Finance. Other advisors of the King seem to rise or fall in accordance with their personal services, but the Minister of Finance is estranging members of his family in positions of government responsibility without regard to their competence. His nephew, who is practically an idiot, is getting too much control of finances. Although the King makes good use of a few of his older sons, some of the others are intriguing and running up debts that do not seem well for the King should die, and they should be free to suit themselves. In my opinion, Saudi Arabia is entirely too much bound to the Royal Family and to the family of the Minister of Finance, without any opportunity for others to reach positions of responsibility."

II. "I myself and a number of my family have lost all faith in the program of the Mufti and in any of the Arab leaders proposing plans for Palestine. Together with three of my cousins, we are in close touch with the Communist agents with whom we meet regularly. As a Good Muslim, I do not believe in the Communist doctrine, but I also do not believe that Russia is helping the Jews because she cares about them. Opposed as we are by American sympathy for Israel, and abandoned as we are by the British who used to supply us with arms, we shall look for help wherever we think we may find it; and I believe that we may find help in Russia, to whom your country also turned when you were fighting for survival in the recent war."

III. "We still feel the way we did about Palestine, but the Arab program for Palestine has been defeated for the time being; in fact, there was never really any agreement on an Arab plan for Palestine. King Abdullah would sell his fellow Arabs into slavery or permit them to perish if he could increase his own power. You may be sure that Saudi Arabia will follow a realistic course in its own national interest and will not be diverted by any sentimental or fanatical considerations, nor by any foreign interference. Insofar as we can do so without the loss of independence we shall cooperate fully with Americans and British in economic matters and in the technical developments needed in Arabia, but in politics we shall be very careful before deciding what other countries or governments will be our friends."

IV. "I believe that popular enthusiasm for Israel has passed its peak with the successful establishment of that State. I understand that some of the principal Jewish supporters are already cutting down their contributions, and it may be that financial resources will steadily dry up. If this is understood and believed by Israeli leaders, they may be willing to compromise their ambitions and settle down in a limited state such as the territory they now occupy. If, on the other hand, they are confident of continue resources, they may insist on expanding, and they may continue to seize additional territory. This continues to be the chief threat to peace. The United Nations has not been able to agree on definite borders for the Israeli State which already administers territory it was never contemplated she should have; and without agreement among the powers to establish the frontiers, the hope for peace depends upon the reasonableness of both Jews and Arabs in accepting boundaries that constitute a compromise, and then remaining within those boundaries."

V. "The leaders and the people of Israel, as I have seen them in Haifa, Tel Aviv and elsewhere during the past eight months, are exultant and confident as a result of their victories, and of their recognition by the world powers. They include many men with brains and ability, and they have ambitious plans for their State."

"In spite of what some Israeli leaders have claimed, the Israelis drove the Arabs from their homes and never invited them to remain peacefully in Israel until after they had left and their property had been confiscated. The homes have been and are being rapidly filled with Jewish immigrants. This is true of the cities and towns; as for the small villages and farms, the present procedure is to obliterate and plow up the Arab hamlet, or farm, and build a Jewish settlement with a few men, wiping out all trace or record of their previous Arab location and property. The purpose in all of this is freely admitted — that the Israelis want to make impossible the compensation of Arabs driven out even though such compensation should be forced upon them in principle.
by some world authority. How can one estimate the value of a home and
property which has been obliterated, and of which no record remains? There is
no question about it in my mind: Arabs will not be permitted return to
Israel and compensation will not be made to them. On the other hand, there
is a desperate effort being made to invite back certain Arabs with Communist
leanings who may be used for propaganda purposes against their fellow Arabs.
A few hundred such Arabs have returned upon the invitation of Israeli authorit;

The Israeli military leaders have told me that if the first truce had
not come when it once would have lost the war. During the three months
following the first truce, the airplanes-with-mechanics which arrived from
Czechoslovakia and the arms and explosives purchased in many places, coupled wi
the complete embargo on arms to the Arabs and political dissensions among the
Arabs gave the Israelis a striking force which was decisive.

Israel still faces a major problem even if she does succeed in controlling her
extremists and expansionists. This is the problem of maintaining the standard of living which she has thus far enjoyed. It is a very high
standard in many ways. The cost of living in Haifa and Tel Aviv is 500% of the
average cost of the period 1933 to 1939. There is no cheap labor; wages and
rents are exorbitant.

The people cannot possibly live off the land and sell their produce to compete
with the Arabs in neighboring countries, who are raising the same fruits and
vegetables at less cost. The danger in this situation is that Israel will
not accept a lower standard of living nor reduce her population to the number
which the land would support. She expects to maintain the prosperity of the country either (1) by continued financial support from the Jews of the world
and their sympathizers, or (2) by exploitation of the neighboring Arab countries
where she expects to find the cheap labor and the raw materials.

J. I have seen Bunch and General Riley several times. Both were hopeful
of a Palestine settlement, if Zionist could be restrained.

British General Gale, commanding Suez Canal Zone, and U.S. Admiral
Shaw, are ready to act to protect their nationals, or evacuate them from the
area.

Ambassador Griffis acted on the Bernadotte Plan, sought to secure Arab
agreement to it, only to be slapped a day earlier by Washington. He had just reached the same day four telegrams from Washington all mutually
contradictory... Wealthy Jewish friends of Griffis in the U.S.A., when he
tried to secure their support for the Bernadotte Plan, slapped him down and
refused to back him as they promised to do... Griffis hoped to get Egypt in line
to have Egypt withdraw from the Arab group and align itself with the West,
leaving Syria and Lebanon in the lurch... Griffis never permitted any telegram
or dispatch from the Embassy to carry any anti-Jewish news, nor any anti-Arab
news. Ireland is more free to report the truth of Israeli violations, etc.,
since Griffis has left... Israeli recruits in the last six months have been
40% from behind the Iron Curtain.

K. Britain is backing Abdullah of Transjordan, with the purpose of Balkanizing
the other Arab countries and making them come crawling to Britain for protective
and separate treaties. It is all a matter of arms, plans, military transport,
and Britain will deal it out to her puppet alone.

L. Syria will go to pieces in a few times! There is no powerful friend, too many
centrifugal forces pulling it apart. Abdullah is nothing in himself, no
resources, natural or financial. He must therefore be a puppet and cannot
act independently. He is a safe investment until the British drop him.

M. A die-hard! Arabs must maintain morale and never compromise. I was
against war but having embarked, the Arabs must keep it up, cold and hot,
until victory, no matter how many years. Morale must be sustained. Dunkirk,
Stalingrad, prove one can survive temporary battle disasters, provided the
will-to-victory remains. Abdullah will be thrown out of Arab League, and the
fight will go on. Israel are NOT invincible. How can three-fourths
of one million Jews overcome thirty-five million Arabs in the long run?
Key Destination

1. Lebanon -- most stable and reliable Arab country. Tapline would be decisive in its economy, and successful. Griffiths is wrong in urging Egypt as a better route. Egypt's future will be decided by other factors. (You cannot carry Egypt to reform her -- she is too far gone.) Egypt is less secure as a pipeline route than Lebanon.

2. Syrians are convinced of Tapline's value. When a government is formed it will ratify early. To be sure, Syria is precarious, and in a couple of years it may be broken up by the Greater Syria plots of Abdullah, but whoever owns and governs the Tapline area will probably be sensible enough to protect it.

3. When I got an autographed photo from Abdullah, the King signed it in red, 'The color of the Hodas', but I think Britain would not allow Abdullah to attack Saudi Arabia.

4. In time, Abdullah will probably take over the Jebel Druze and Damascus. He will not touch Lebanon which, he said, 'is like a beehive, very active and full of honey, but better not stick your finger in.' At the same time, the Communists may take over northern Syria, the Jezirah, Aleppo, etc. The Soviet Minister to Syria and Lebanon, reported to be on an indefinite leave or transfer, suddenly returned to his post.

5. In our opinion, no Syrian Government formed now will be stable. The discontent is too profound.

6. Well-known Communist sympathizers among the Arab refugees have been invited back to their homes by Israel, and have gone back. Russia is arming Israel and preparing some day to take over the internal government. The Israelis have been successful in winning the favor of observers by lavish hospitality, including champagne and Jewish wine.

7. The U.S. Government has lost both Israel and the Arabs. Israel is already a tool of Russia. The Arabs can never cooperate with Russia, but they have lost all faith in the U.S. Their only hope is to refuse to agree to any rape of their land. Let the Jews seize what they can, they will over-extend themselves and fall in the end. The Arabs will not and cannot submit.