

against Israel, how soon will the Arab nations accept the logic of these facts? The moment they accept such logic, they will also have accepted the facts necessary to inspire a peace settlement with Israel.

America's Role: To Aid Both Jews and Arabs

America's role, it seems to me, must be to continue to help both Israel and the several Arab states. She must be forthright and uncompromising at this point, for unless she is, the Arab nations will continue their vain hope that Israel can still be crushed and so long as that hope remains alive, the Arab refugees will be condemned to a camp existence, the worst feature of which is neither a lack of food nor of health advantages -- it is their idleness. Above all, America must insist upon resettlement as the only logical and humanitarian solution. To entertain political solutions involving territorial changes or compulsory repatriation will serve only to postpone the day when the Arab world will recognize that it must assume, in cooperation with the United Nations, its own proper share of responsibility. We must not raise false hopes.

While this picture is depressing, I don't feel that absolute pessimism is warranted. There are young Arab leaders -- quiet at this moment -- who see the great and challenging potentials of the Arab world and who are convinced that their enemies are neither Israel nor the West, but rather antiquated and oppressive systems of land tenure, widespread illiteracy and disease and wasting land and human resources.

There is no valid reason why a revived and creative Arab civilization cannot be built in the years ahead upon the solid foundation of resources, which desert research and other scientific studies have indicated underlie this great underdeveloped region of the world. Historians may, in years to come, point to the Arab refugee situation as having been the key factor in the revival of Arabic civilization and the rebuilding of the area. In Biblical terms, we might say that God is able to cause even the evil which men do to serve Him.

If our American aid for the refugees can be made to fit into such a great goal, it will be infinitely worthwhile. Impoverished and oppressed people will be redeemed and democracy will be the victor.