

Earl Raab

October 17, 1978

THE U.N. Wonderland

Riddle: What's the difference between the United Nations and the Information Office of the PLO? As of November 29th, the riddle will be solved: the United Nations will be the information office of the PLO.. Therein lies an Alice-in-Wonderland tale.

November 29th marks the anniversary of the UN's 1947 Partition Plan resolution.

The UN's Palestinian Committee thought this would be a fine time to release a motion picture and other material about the Palestinian Arabs. The Committee has been busy all year producing that material, which, we are told, will flail Israel and glamorize the PLO.

Alice-in-Wonderland item #1: The 1947 Partition Plan, you will remember, called for a Palestinian Arab State and a Jewish State. The Israelis accepted that proposal. The Arab states rejected that proposal, and proceeded to their first invasion.

In other words, it was the Arab states -- not Israel -- which rejected that "Palestinian state." That was one measure of their "concern" for the Palestinian Arabs. But the material to issue from the UN on November 29 will feature the Israelis as the villains. In that manner will our august international body turn history on its head.

Alice-in-Wonderland item #2: The United Nations is supposed to be the major world instrument for peace. And here they are, celebrating the war-party in the Middle East.

After all, the current PLO thrust is to try to break up the Israeli-Egyptian peace. It is in this Alice-in-Wonderland spirit that a group called Jewish Alliance Against Zionism last week distributed a leaflet in front of the Israeli consulate which read: "Protest the Camp David Accords. No Peace without the Palestinians." (There was no address for the so-called Jewish Alliance Against Zionism, not even the number in the telephone booth where they must hold their larger meetings.)

We will hear complaints that "the Palestinians are being left out." For that, read: "Someone is making peace with Israel." That is the real complaint. The fact of the matter is that the Palestinians are not being left out; the peace with Egypt will open the way to an autonomous self-rule by Palestinians on the West Bank. They never got that from the other Arabs, or any one else, no matter where they lived.

The PLO was indeed left out of the Camp David meetings. That is because the Camp David meeting was about peace, and the PLO is only interested in war. Any Middle Eastern party interested in peace with Israel could have come to Camp David. They chose not to come because they are dedicated to war. They attack Camp David because they are dedicated to war. And the UN celebrates them.

But let's not forget about Alice-in-Wonderland item #3: The United States pays for a quarter of the UN budget, which means that it pays for a quarter of this November 29 pro-PLO extravaganza and film. And this UN-sponsored pro-PLO campaign not only runs counter to the needs of peace, it runs counter to Camp David American foreign policy!

Winston Churchill said about the UN that "it is better to jaw-jaw than to war-war." But when the jaw-jaw is turned into the service of war-war, one must wonder-wonder.

This November 29th war-mongering exercise of the UN is only a symptom of much of the same which is happening in that body. But it is a particularly outrageous symptom. It would not hurt to point out this dangerous nonsense to your Congressmen, and to the local chapter of your United Nations Association.

Meanwhile, one can only repeat, with Alice in Wonderland: "Curiouser and curiouser."