

NEWSPAPER VIEWS

BY I.L. KENEN

I. L. Kenen, Editor Emeritus of the Near East Report, will welcome questions and comments about the media. Write him at: 990 National Press Building, Washington, D. C. 20045.

For many years we have been waiting for the Arab leader who is ready to live in peace with Israel. Columnist Stephen S. Rosenfeld of The Washington Post (Aug. 1) thinks he may have found him at last in the person of Mohammed Sid Ahmed, the editorial page editor of Cairo's Al-Ahram.

Rosenfeld's appraisal is rightly cautious, for it is based only on publisher's blurbs and reviews of Ahmed's book, "After the Guns Fall Silent," which until now has appeared only in Arabic.

Ahmed's vision is that the Arab states and Israel might live together in peace and mutual economic benefit. Israel's technology and Arab oil wealth would help the Middle East become one of the world's big geographical conglomerates.

Rosenfeld reports Ahmed's contention that the Arabs have overcome their previously felt inferiority to Israel in military and technological progress and can now conceive of a settlement that is not tantamount to surrender.

Regrettably, however, we must suppress our enthusiasm, for the original Arabic shows that the author is predicting the dissolution of a Jewish homeland once the Arabs have regained their "occupied" lands. Noted Arabist Nissim Rejewan, writing in The Jerusalem Post, quotes from the original Arabic version: "The Zionist enterprise will disintegrate and wither away at the very moment in which it appears to have attained its goal and to have forced itself upon its surroundings. In other words, the moment of fulfillment of its dream is the moment of disruption of its very being."

The Jerusalem Post recalls that Sid

Ahmed was a clandestine Marxist who has served time in Cairo jails. Egypt's censor banned his book, but Sadat recently overruled the decision, obviously seeing that on the surface at least, the book could become an "exhibit" of the kind of Arab "moderation" that Arabs like to export. We will not be surprised if Ahmed soon appears on American lecture platforms as living proof of the Arab desire for "peace".

The Arab campaign to expel Israel from the United Nations is based on the "big lie" the Israel is the violator of UN resolutions. John H. Cooley of the Christian Science Monitor summarizes the Arab position on July 30. Cooley was told that "fighting broke out" after the adoption of the Partition Resolution: that the Jews attacked the Arab inhabitants of Deir Yassin, precipitating a mass exodus.

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