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of establishing a "democratic" state, but here again we must distinguish between a word's actual meaning and Mr. Arafat's definition. The PLO is certainly no model of democracy; no one elected Arafat to represent the Palestinians' its authority is guaranteed by the "freedom fighter's gun" to which Mr. Arafat referred at the U.N.

What, then, of the PLO's charge that Israel is a "racist" nation. This accusation has been repeated so often - Arafat made numerous references to Israel "racism" and "colonialism" in his U.N. address - that it has achieved a measure of acceptance worldwide, and in the American black community.

The question is what do the Arabs mean by "racism?" The standard definition is the systematic oppression of an ethnic or racial minority, very often justified on the grounds that the minority is inherently less intelligent, less clean less pure or in some way inferior to the majority.

Applying this measurement, it is apparent that some of the most blatantly "racist" regimes are in Arab lands. In Iraq, Jews were hanged in a public square, while today napalm is employed against the dissident Kurdish minority. Syria rivals Nazi Germany in its brutal treatment of its Jewish citizens, who are confined to a cramped quarters of Damascus, prevented from emigrating, and from time to time murdered with official sanction. And in the Sudan, it was non-Moslem blacks who were the target of a genocidal war in which 500,000 were killed and many thousands more forced to flee their homes.

I would not pretend that the racial situation in Israel, where some 400,000 Arabs live as citizens, is perfect. But given enormous problems confronting her, this small nation has achieved a level of racial tolerance that is indeed remarkable. The Arabs within Israel enjoy rights and a standard of living unknown to the masses in Moslem nations. They participate politically; elect their own representatives to parliament; receive public education; belong to Histadrut, the Israeli labor federation. They are in other words, a part of the progressive institutions of Israeli society.

I believe that the Palestinian people have the right to a homeland, to self-determination, to the resolution of their state of uncertainty. The Jewish people, historically an oppressed people, have the same right. And given the rhetoric and actions of the PLO, there can be little doubt that to accede to the demand of a bi-national state would result in the Jews of Israel being dealt with much like the Jews in Iraq and Syria.

In her brief history, Israel has forged an enviable record of social achievement. At a time when so many appear willing to accept lies as the truth, to reach dishonest conciliation with terrorists, to barter away the most basic ideals of justice and compassion, Israel more than ever deserves the support of people of good will and common decency.

Pvt. SMITH



Marine Pvt. Eric V. Smith, of 2627 Donna, Las Vegas, Nev., Graduated from recruit training at the Marine Corps. Recruit Depot, San Diego.

NOTICE

NAACP meeting set aside until January 19, 4 PM.

A.F.D.C.

The Nation's largest cash assistance welfare program--aid to families with dependent children (AFDC)--had 28,000 fewer recipients in September this year than in September 1973.

Preliminary figures released today by HEW Secretary Casper W. Weinberger set the September AFDC total at 10,796,000 compared to 10,824,000 in September 1973.

Secretary Weinberger said that Federal/State money payments of \$675.1 million were made to AFDC recipients in September 1974, \$65.0 million more than

in September 1973.

James S. Dwight, Jr., Administrator of HEW's Social and Rehabilitation Service, noted that the preliminary September figures were 32,000 higher than those for August. He said that a further breakdown of the September 1974 figures would be released, with tables, when available.

Mr. Dwight also said that complete AFDC figures for August 1974, are now available; these show that the August total was 92,000 less than the 10,856,000 persons on the rolls in August 1973 (not 80,000 less as earlier preliminary figures had indicated).

MINORITY BANKING

Seven new minority owned banks have been chartered recently, bringing the total of minority owned banks in the United States to 68, according to Alex Armendaris, Director of the U. S. Commerce Department's Office of Business Enterprise.

Armendaris said the new banks represent a "significant improvement in the picture of minority owned banking in the United States."

When the office of Minority Business Enterprise was formed to offer technical and management expertise to minority business in 1969, Armendaris said, only 31 minority banks existed, Deposits in 1969 totaled \$396.5 million.

Today, minority owned bank deposits are estimated at almost \$1.2 billion, Armendaris said.

HOME BUYERS:

The Veterans Administration Lists the Following



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937 339	LAS VEGAS: 436 N. 14th	\$13,950	All Cash		2	1
1048 405	LAS VEGAS: 6034 Surrey Ln.	29,950	750	283	3	2
944 360	LAS VEGAS: 2535 San Felipe	23,450	250	221	4	1-1/2
897 106	LAS VEGAS: 2017 Periliter Ave.	28,450	450	271	3	1-3/4
PMSH49394	LAS VEGAS: 2209 Melinda	25,450	450	249	3	2
981 931	LAS VEGAS: 5877 Carter Ct.	18,500	All Cash		3	2
PMSH47543	NO. LAS VEGAS: 800 E. Bartlett	19,950	0	198	2	1
1014 818	NO. LAS VEGAS: 3537 Bulloch, Apt. C.	19,950	0	195	3	1
842 916	NO. LAS VEGAS: 1620 Cartier	10,950	All Cash		2	1
PMSH47757	NO. LAS VEGAS: 3201 Crawford	21,950	0	222	2	1
999 316	NO. LAS VEGAS: 3810 Haddock	23,450	450	228	3	2
876 970	NO. LAS VEGAS: 1305-05-1/2 Putnam	15,000	All Cash		(Units)	2 2
759 488	NO. LAS VEGAS: 1923 Stutz	25,450	450	249	3	2
1116 224	NO. LAS VEGAS: 2933 Webster	20,450	250	203	3	2

FINANCING IS AVAILABLE ON ALL VA LISTINGS

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Speed Reading

Want to improve your reading skill? Beginning next week, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas will offer a non-credit class in speed reading which will do just that.

The continuing education class, which consists of fourteen evening sessions, Jan. 13 thru March 3, will enable the student to develop his reading speed and comprehension.

Registration for the limited enrollment program is now under way in the Office of Conferences and Institutes, Frazier Hall, Room 109.

The instructor of the class, which is co-sponsored by the College of

Education, is Dr. Dan Baxley, the director of the Reading Center and Clinic at UNLV.

Classes will be developed not only to improve reading rates, but will cover vocabulary development, information retention and techniques which will help prepare people to read. Previous class members have experienced gains in reading speed exceeding 1,000 words per minute.

The classes will meet from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays on the campus.

For more information about the program, contact the Division of Continuing Education.

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