

Let's mind our own business

Dear Editor:

When people in the media report on world affairs, they're quick to criticize what they see without once bothering to look back into modern history to find reasons for such events.

I'm particularly thinking of the present trouble afflicting Israel, and the riots taking place in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In 1948, at the end of the British Mandate in Palestine, the United Nations, in their wisdom, created the new State of Israel, which from a military point of view, was indefensible. No sooner had it been created, it was attacked by surrounding hostile states who refused to recognize this intruder in their midst.

Nearly successful in their efforts to push the Israelis into the sea; the Transjordan forces got within a few miles of the Mediterranean coast. If they had reached the sea, Israel would have been cut in two and once more the new Jewish homeland would have been in jeopardy.

It's not surprising Israel considers its security top priority. Sever-

al other attempts have been made by surrounding states to dismember Israel but have come away with a bloody nose.

Whether Israel is justified in keeping forces on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, is debatable from both a moral and political point of view. However, as seen through Israeli eyes, it's necessary in order to survive as a Nation: As long as they remain where they are, they must maintain law and order in the midst of abundant provocation. In my opinion they've shown admirable restraint.

What would other countries do if faced with a similar situation? Roll over and let themselves be slaughtered by rioting teenagers?

These youngsters, encouraged by those behind the scenes, are deliberately used by their leaders as part of the game. But if one gets injured or killed by the forces of law and order, it's blazoned across the world with such headlines: 'Another youngster killed by Israeli forces.' It's these teenagers who are in their front line doing all the rioting.

Recently I watched a TV news program where a British Foreign Office member was visiting the scene, talking to an Israeli army

officer, criticizing what he saw and suggesting methods to handle the situation. I said to myself: What would Margaret Thatcher have said if an Israeli official visited Northern Ireland and told her what she should do to clear up the mess? I can imagine what her answer would be. Flying visits by officials and observers from other countries only inflame the situation.

Why do other countries away from the scene always manage to interfere in other people's business? When assessing this particular trouble spot, you cannot liken it to rioting between people of the same religion and philosophy.

On the one side you have Arab fanaticism, on the other, the intransigence of the Jewish faith and philosophy.

The old adage still rings true: Everyone knows how to cure a kicking horse except the one who owns it.

Sincerely,
Adam Johnstone
R.R.1, Stouffville

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