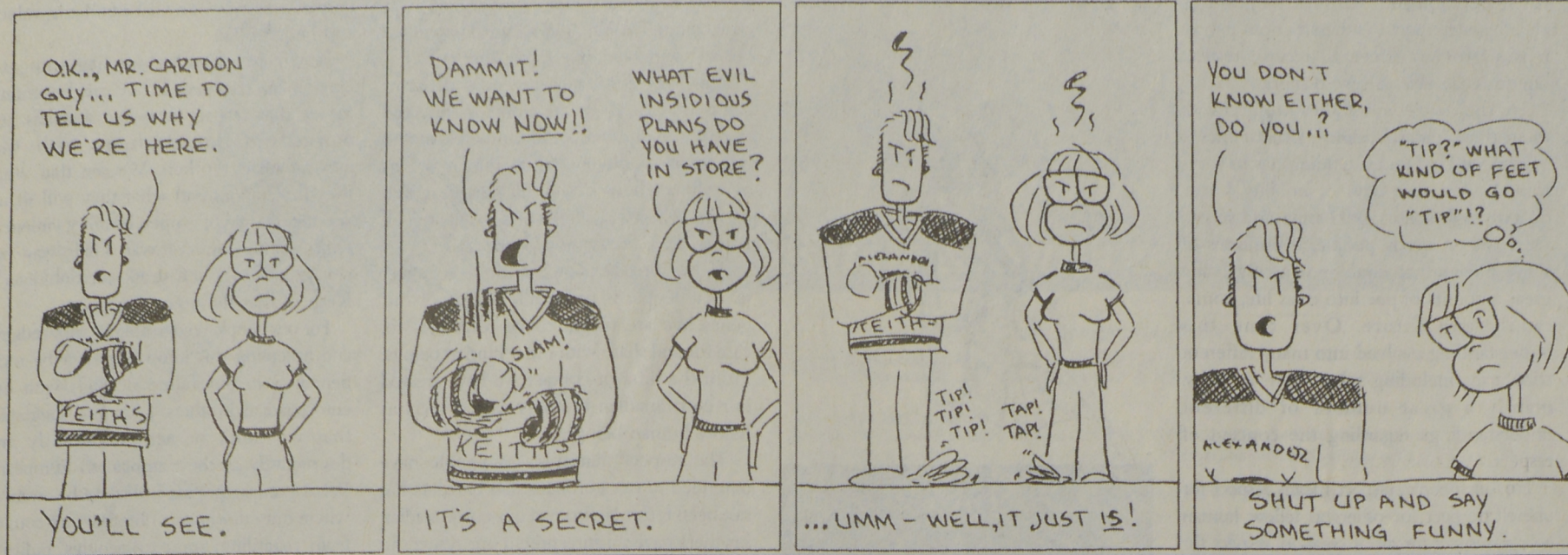


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Continued from Page 7

constructed by King Herod.

Finally, the Refugees. Who can help but sympathize with their frustration? But it is simplistic to lay at the foot of Israel total responsibility for their plight. War is harsh, particularly modern warfare with its disregard for civilians caught in its midst. We have seen it in Europe on a massive scale twice in the last century, in Asia and Africa too. Hundreds of millions have had to flee its ravages - refugees all. And on its cessation, the world has had to deal with their displacement and find a solution - sometimes by return, more often by resettlement. This was the case in Europe at the end of the Second World War. It was the case on the Indian Sub-Continent after its partition in 1948. It was the case for the hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees from Arab lands who had to forsake all and seek refuge in Israel after the 1948 War.

But the Palestinian Arab refugees from that War of 1948 were on the whole not resettled by their host countries. Neither the government of Egypt, nor those of Jordan, Syria and

Lebanon sought to integrate the Palestinian Arab refugees into their own societies. Instead they were maintained in camps, denied integration and citizenship by the host countries. Their hope for a future after the 'Catastrophe' (al-Naqbah) was said to be dependent upon a return to their original homes after the dismantling of the 'Zionist Entity'. And so the Refugees became so many pawns in the unrealistic international politics of the rejectionist Arab States. Naturally their frustrations have now been compounded as formerly rejectionist Arab States accept the legitimacy of the State of Israel as a Jewish State - Egypt and Jordan already, and inevitably Syria and Lebanon in the future.

More difficult for them, the Palestinian Authority too has accepted Israel's legitimacy, as it must. This has deep implications for the Refugees of 1948 and their offspring. A full return to the land of their forbears is as unrealistic as would be that of the millions of refugees at the end of World War II who found themselves resident in strange lands with newly drawn borders. These were on the whole eventually resettled by their host States and

granted citizenship, the camps emptied by the early fifties. That did not occur in the case of Palestinian Refugee camps under Egyptian, Jordanian or Lebanese control. And so now, it is the Palestinian Authority which is left to integrate these into its still nascent nationhood on the West Bank and in Gaza.

Israel has indicated that it is prepared to discuss the return of some categories of 1948 Refugees and their offspring to the State of Israel - but not of a wholesale resettlement into the State of Israel of all those who now identify as Palestinian Arab Refugees. Nor has the Palestinian Authority proposed that it do so. Other mechanisms, such as reparations, international aid and resettlement etc. were being explored by the parties prior to the September breakdown of peace talks, and no doubt will be revived.

Mr. Maier says of the Palestinian Arabs with whom he has spoken that "All seem to share a general sense of betrayal by the peace process and the long endured institutionalized discrimination." One must sympathize with the latter, which when experienced, is suffered at the hands of the occupying Israelis. But

surely, the former i.e. the sense of betrayal, shows that many Palestinians have yet to accept the legitimacy of the State of Israel - a Jewish State coexisting with an Arab Palestinian one in the historic territory of Palestine, as originally imagined by the international community through the 1947 UN Partition Resolution.

Thankfully, Chairman Arafat has recently called upon the Palestinian people to forswear recourse to guns and violence in the expression of their frustration, so as to allow the peace process to resume. Unfortunately, there are those among the Palestinians who refuse to heed that call, as the recent events bear grim witness." Prime Minister Barak has repeatedly stated that such violence will be met with force, as it has been, with terrible consequences for many. However he has at the same time reiterated that a cessation of violence will hasten a return to the peace table. As Canadians and persons of good will, we should support both leaders in their disavowal of violence and in their pursuit of peace.

Thomas Kuttner
 Atlantic Jewish Council



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This issue is dedicated to:
End of Term! See you at LCB!

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The Brunswickan
 SUB Suite #35, PO Box 4400
 Fredericton, NB, E3B 4X5
 (506) 453-4983,
 (506) 453-5073 (fax)
 bruns@unb.ca
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