

# Correspondence

## Two Nationalisms

To the Editors: True, "true peace is conceivable only through the definition of the Palestinian entity...." as Messrs. Kook and Merlin correctly point out at the start of their article "Israel at Peace With Its Neighbors" (*Worldview*, November, 1975).

Leaving the Palestinians out of Middle East peace hopes is like leaving the pianist out of a recital of the *Emperor Concerto*. However, there is a serious lack of clarity with regard to how this new client Palestinian State of Kook and Merlin in the West Bank will function. Indeed, it is doubtful whether such a contrived state could fulfill the aspirations of the Palestinians.

But my main truck with Kook and Merlin is not just that they are unwilling to go far enough on the Palestinian issue but that they are too willing to jettison Zionism. They choose to solve the Middle East question by changing the nature of Israel and its relationship with the Jewish people, removing that age-old natural connection. Israel is entitled to its national definition described by its historical existential dimension without modification, as the Palestinians are entitled to theirs. The problem is one of practicality: How do two nationalisms, both genuine, find a viable solution in one homeland? Serious consideration must be given to the roots of Arab Palestinian hopes, aspirations, and their political future. This cannot be done by watering down the traditional relationship between Judaism, the Jewish people, and Israel. Neither the Palestinians nor the Jewish-Israel relationship can be treated as a myth.

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## World Democratic Federation

To the Editors: Donald Brandon's "Toward a Genuine 'Structure of Peace'" (*Worldview*, October, 1975)

presented a convincing analysis of the weaknesses of the Kissinger foreign policy. In my judgment, however, its proposal of a "union of the existing democratic nations of the world that could serve as a stepping stone to an ultimate world democratic federation" leaves much to be desired.

In the first place, what is a "democracy"? Is the Republic of South Africa? Is India? Is the United States?

In the second place, no democratic union could possibly bring peace with such a large number of the nations of the earth excluded.

In the third place, excluding them from the new federation of democracies would only offend the undemocratic countries and make war more likely.

Let me make it clear: I believe in "government of the people, by the people, and for the people." But I believe in the United Nations too. I thank God it has nearly all of the nations of the world in it. Obviously, it needs strengthening. Strengthening the U.N. is our challenge. With God's help we can do it.

Palmer Van Gundy  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Donald Brandon Responds:  
In reply to Mr. Van Gundy:

1. A clear distinction among democratic, authoritarian, and totalitarian political systems is made on the basis of such things as existence or absence of competing parties and pressure groups, freedom of educational system and mass media, etc. Today there are about two dozen democracies, 115 authoritarian countries, and one dozen totalitarian Communist countries.

2. I didn't argue for abolition of the U.N. balance of power, etc., pending the establishment of a union of the democracies. Rereading of my essay should make it clear that union of the democracies requires the extension of democracy to many more countries before it could become a viable "structure of peace."

3. Excluding undemocratic countries from this "structure of peace" would no more make war likely than does the present exclusion of undemocratic countries from such organizations as OECD, or the exclusion of democratic countries from the Soviet bloc.

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# WORLDVIEW

## Statement of Purpose

The unique purpose of *Worldview* is to place public policies, particularly in international affairs, under close ethical scrutiny. The Council on Religion and International Affairs, which sponsors the journal, was founded in 1914 by religious and civic leaders brought together by Andrew Carnegie. It was mandated to work toward ending the barbarity of war, to encourage international cooperation, and to promote justice within all societies. The Council is independent and nonsectarian. *Worldview* is an important part of the Council's wide-ranging program in pursuit of these above goals.

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Philip A. Johnson, *Publisher*

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