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Mr. G. Rafael

A. Eilan

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SECRET

The Army has accomplished a considerable "velte-face", in connection with infiltration. For years the Army has been informing the Misrad and the outside world that infiltration is being sponsored, inspired, guided or at least utilised by the Legion or other powers that be.

However, when Leo Savir and myself asked Mr. Bender, to write a letter to Fati in order to give us some documentary proof of the Legion's complicity to be used for the White Paper now in preparation - no clear answer came from the Army.

Finally Fati told Leo and myself, on two separate occasions, that no proof could be given because no proof existed.

Furthermore, Fati told me that having personally made a detailed study of infiltrations, he had arrived at the conclusion that Jordanians and especially the Legion were doing their best to prevent infiltration, which was a natural decentralised and sporadic movement. In fact, listening to Fati or his colleagues these days, one could almost mistake them for the British Foreign Office.

Now this is a very serious matter. The charge of

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implied complicity, or at least of the lack of Jordanians good will to stop infiltration has been made repeatedly by the highest representatives of the Government - Ben Gurion, Sharett and Aba Eban. We just cannot retreat from this.

[If Jordanians' complicity is a lie we have to keep on lying. If there are no proofs we have to fabricate them.

That much I told Fati. Actually, I do not believe in this new version. I think that though the origins of infiltration were certainly economic, the Arabs soon came to realise the value of this undeclared war against Israel, and have certainly encouraged it.

In the execution of it they have been, however, much more skillful in covering up their tracks than we were in our Peulot Tagmul.

The Legion, it is true, has very good military reasons for disliking the recent consequences of infiltrations. Ever since Falame the Legion has been compelled to string itself out along the border - a military disposition Glubb certainly strives to avoid. But military considerations do not always prevail. To the politicians in Amman and the Old City, infiltration is not only a useful weapon against Israel but also a welcome safety valve for the despair of the refugees and the recalcitrancy of the Palestinians.

In short, notwithstanding the recent "discoveries" of the Army we, I think, continue to press the point of complicity and we can do so with a clear conscience.

This, however, is a question that should be thrashed out at high level, and a clear-cut decision reached or our propoganda is going to be worse bogged down than ever.



A. Eilan

c.c. Mr. Bender.