ARAB REFUGEE TIDE BURDENS ECONOMY
By GENE CURRIVANSpecial to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
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Mideast States Pressed for Their Return to Palestine—Israel Welcomes Them

By GENE CURRIVAN
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TEL AVIV, Israel, July 24 — Pressure applied by Arabs, who fled from Palestine during the recent fighting may be the deciding factor in the recognition or nonrecognition of the State of Israel, according to political experts here.

A London broadcast in Arabic today said that Abdul Rahman Azzam Pasha, Secretary General of the Arab League, had received a message from a former Mayor of Jaffa, now in Trans-Jordan, asking him to find a solution for the plight of the Arab refugees in Arab states, "especially the 80,000 refugees from Ramleh and Lydda who are now in Trans-Jordan."

Most of the inhabitants of these towns, near Tel Aviv, fled toward near-by Arab communities before the recent capture of the places by Israeli forces and from these communities to Trans-Jordan.

In addition, thousands fled from Jaffa, Haifa and Acre. Approximately 60,000 Arabs resided in Haifa and as many in Jaffa. About 15,000 in Acre took to the hills. Many of those from Jaffa were evacuated by sea before war broke out, and it was assumed they went to Egypt.

Arab countries are overloaded with refugees, who impose a burden on their precarious economies. There is persistent pressure by the refugees to return to their homes. The Israeli Government has invited them back under certain conditions.

They are free to return to their vineyards and orange groves as long as they respect Israeli hospitality. Most of them are Palestinians and wish only to live in peace.

Some of them have no homes to return to because their villages were leveled by themselves, by sabotage or by attacking forces. The orange groves, however, are still there, and Arab peasants are not exacting on dwelling conditions.

In the principal towns, such as Haifa, Jaffa, Acre and Nazareth, they would probably find their homes intact. Nazareth was a sanctuary for many Haifa refugees. When they left they piled up in overcrowded Ramallah, north of Jerusalem. It has been one wave upon another, and these Arab towns cannot cope with it.

The first influx to the towns was made by Fawzi el-Kawukji's so-called irregulars. Undisciplined and untrained troops, adventurers at heart, moved from one village to another, sapping the resources of each. The villagers tolerated it as long as they were convinced it was a matter of life and death, but the conviction weakened as they in turn fled. They have been moved since then, in many cases out of Palestine.

Count Bernadotte, the United Nations Mediator, is to them just a name they cannot pronounce; the United Nations is something they have heard about on the radio. Most of them are not politically minded and want peace because it means returning to their normal lives.

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