



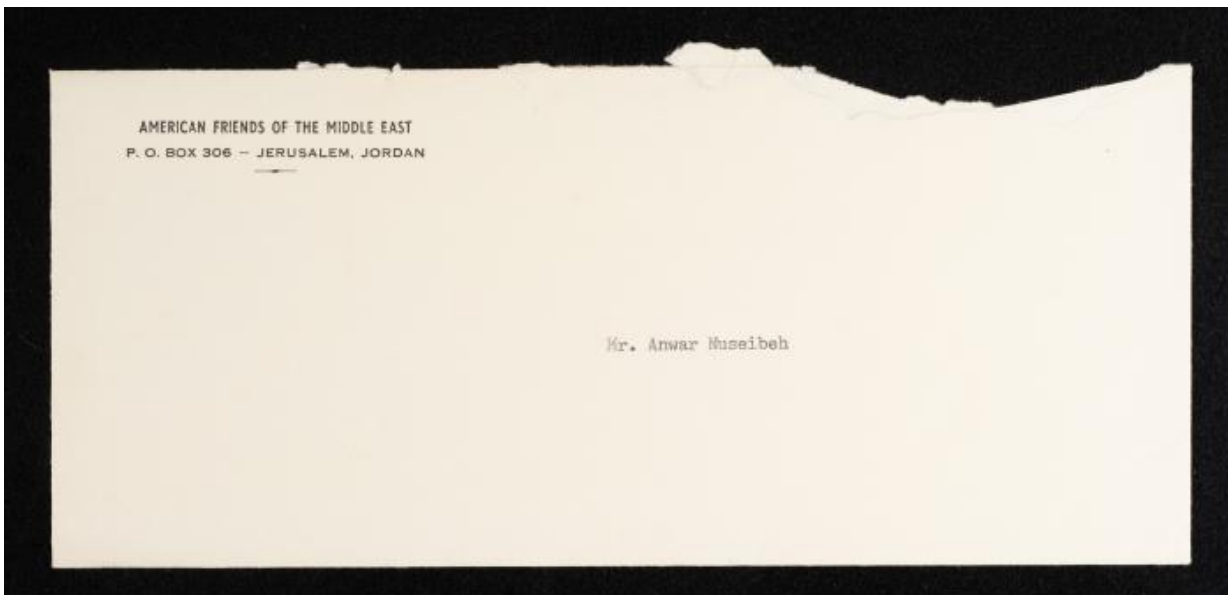
**the  
palestinian  
museum**

جمعية غير حكومية Non-Governmental Association

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## **A Letter from the American Friends of the Middle East to Sari Nusseibeh, 24 June 1960**

This archival item documents an English printed letter from Harold B. Minor who is the director of the American Friends of the Middle East in Washington on 17 June 1960 to the Chief Editor of The New York Times and a copy of which was also sent to Anwar Nuseibeh in Jerusalem on 24 June 1960; whereas the letter discusses the topic of the "Middle East Tensions" and the foundation confirms the necessity of demonstrating the American status towards Refugees, the Right of Return and the Suez Canal.



Reprinted From  
**The New York Times.**

By

**AMERICAN FRIENDS  
OF THE MIDDLE EAST**

1607 New Hampshire Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 9, D. C.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1960.

**Letters to The Times**

**Middle East Tensions**

**Arab Actions Held to Arise Out of  
Totality of Palestine Problem**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Senator Fulbright's constructive proposals regarding the Arab refugee problem, in his Senate speech of June 15, are to be applauded. His proposals warrant thoughtful consideration not only by the Arab nations and by Israel, but by every thinking American.

Continuing propaganda by certain groups has fixed in many American minds the erroneous idea that the Arabs in their boycott of Israel and their interdiction of passage of Israeli ships through the Suez Canal are motivated merely by caprice and hatred. This is far from the truth.

These Arab actions arise out of the totality of the Palestine problem. They will be solved or ameliorated only within this context.

Acting Secretary of State Dillon notes this in his letter of May 2 to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee: "These undesirable restrictions, as we are aware, are an outgrowth of the Palestine

problem which continues to cause tensions between Israel and the Arab states to perpetuate unfortunate circumstances such as those whereby nearly one million Arab refugees are not able to return to their homes."

**U. N. Declarations**

It is true that the United Arab Republic is in default of one United Nations resolution on the subject of the Suez Canal. But it is not generally known that the Arab position of intransigency on this subject is tied to the fact that Israel has long been in contempt of three pertinent U. N. declarations:

Paragraph 11 of Resolution 194/III of Dec. 11, 1948, provides that the refugees wishing to return to their homes should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date and that compensation should be paid those not choosing to return.

Paragraph 181/II of the Partition resolution provided that the City of Jerusalem should be established as a corpus separatum under a special international regime administered by the United Nations.

The Partition resolution established the boundaries of the Jewish

state, but Israel occupies 35 per cent more land than authorized by the United Nations.

It is unreasonable, and indeed futile, to expect the Arabs to comply with one resolution when Israel has refused to acknowledge three. Such a partisan attitude, created by the propaganda of pressure groups, has led to a widespread feeling on the part of Arabs that Americans are unfairly biased in favor of Israel.

Senator Fulbright's April 29 speech before the Senate on the amendment to the Mutual Security Act courageously pointed out the seriousness and danger of such pressure. His speech of June 15 in turn highlights the crucial role the refugee problem plays in regard to current Middle Eastern tensions.

If there is indeed to be progress toward reduction of tensions in the Middle East, then we Americans must mature in our approach toward such problems as that of the Arab refugees and that of the Suez Canal.

HAROLD B. MINOR,  
President, American Friends of the  
Middle East, Inc.  
Washington, June 17, 1960.