

A SEVEN SPRINGS STUDY

**Israelis and Palestinians  
The Need for an  
Alliance of Moderates**

A Report on a Symposium

BY

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May 1982

**SEVEN  
SPRINGS  
CENTER**

## PREFACE

Israel's withdrawal to its border with Egypt, pursuant to the peace treaty between the two countries, took place in late April. Israel's invasion of Lebanon was launched in early June. The eighth and latest Seven Springs Center's continuing series of symposia on Middle East peace was convened in a brief and illusory moment of calm between these two events.

Obviously, we cannot claim to have foreseen in May the succeeding several months of trouble; still, we feel that the conflict in Lebanon has only made more urgent the issues discussed in our several days at Seven Springs. Already divided by deep and almost unbridgeable animosities, the Israeli and Palestinian adversaries are being driven now to even more dangerous extremes of hatred and unreason. In the long years of Arab-Israeli conflict, it has never been more necessary to encourage dialogue and to work for an alliance of moderates on both sides. That is the theme to which, over its several days, this symposium increasingly turned.

As in our last previous meeting, this conference assembled a group remarkable in its range of knowledge and in its disparity of background—Palestinians and other Arabs talking with Israelis and both with Americans of diverse persuasions. This discussion yielded serious differences of opinion and, often, spirited argu-

ment; but the participants showed also a capacity to talk constructively and with mutual good will. Indeed, many of us felt that it was an encouraging case study in the kind of dialogue of moderates so badly needed at this time. Whether it constituted a useful step toward the creation of an alliance among Palestinian and Israeli moderates and whether, in the vastly altered circumstances since the Israeli conquest of Lebanon, that is still a credible enterprise, the reader must judge for himself.

This report by William H. Brubeck reflects discussions that went on around our table May 13-15, 1982. As always at Seven Springs, we made no effort to reach collective judgments; the many viewpoints expressed in these pages are all those of individual participants. In order to encourage frank and open conversation, also, Seven Springs' customary rule of anonymity has been preserved. We should like to thank again for their valued contributions Mr. Brubeck, who is responsible for this report; and Mr. Harold Saunders who presided over our discussions with his unflinching skill, fairness, and good humor.

Like every Seven Springs report, this one stands on its own as the product of conversation among a particular group of people on a particular occasion. It can usefully be read, however, as one of a series of discussions and reports that include the four-man study, *The Path to Peace*, and the published reports of several earlier Seven Springs symposia on Middle East peace.

Joseph N. Greene, Jr.  
President

Mount Kisco, New York  
August 1982

## MEMBERS OF THE SYMPOSIUM

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Graeme Bannerman	Professional Staff Member, Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate
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