

After publishing yea-many fanzines over the past yea-number of years, Dave Van Arnam (who remains at 1730 Harrison Ave, Apt 353, Bronx, NY 10453) finally has a mimeograph of his own.

FIRST DRAFT #169

Vol. 29, No. 1

9 Jun 67

Of course, this first fanzine after such acquisition is not being published on the new mimeo, but that seems only fannish.

STEVE STILES OUTRANKS THE ARMY

Monday morning I came in bright and early at about 10:45 (I usually don't come in to work at all on Mondays, but I'm between book contracts right now, so I do). Shortly thereafter, John Boardman arrived, as arranged, and we carted off Null-Q Press (Part I). John & Perdita own a station wagon and had volunteered their services in that typical hour of fannish need -- one's having a chance at a duper, but no immediate way of transporting it safely home.

Well, after heroic labors (including a lengthy wait halfway from the office here to the Bronx while the shock absorber on the left rear tire was welded back into place... *sigh*) we finally got it home and got the mimeo itself upstairs. But the cabinet (with the motor that doesn't work any more) we had to leave downstairs; it was just too heavy. So Null-Q Press (Part I) is now only a hand-operated machine. Which is no big deal; it cranks over very easily.

THE SPLENDID LITTLE WAR DEPT: I am not Jewish, nor do I have any desire to Convert, or to go live on a kibbutz because it's invigorating. But I follow Israel's affairs with some interest, because it does represent a historic undertaking.

Thus you won't be surprised at the total delight with which I greeted Israel's attack on Egypt and virtually immediate success thereafter. My feeling about the Arabs is that they've lived in the same kind of country (read: type of land; desert, rock, etc.) for thousands of years and made nothing from it, while Israel blooms like a rose among the thorns. This implies that Israel has the highest moral right for existing -- the same right, in fact, that the United States of America has for existing: we took this land from its owners and made it into a great and free nation unlike any previous in the history of mankind. (I say nothing at this time about pollution, segregation, corruption, the persecution of hippies, and all the other little and great wens on our public souls; overall, we're little worse than any other country, and almost infinitely better than most.)

Israel has just fought and won one of the most just wars in the entire history of mankind -- perhaps the most just in all history, which of course does not mean as much as we might like to think. Against 40 to 1 odds they have defeated the socialist dictatorship of Gamal Abdul Nasser (and Cindy just came in and told me Nasser has resigned, which is about as good a piece of news I've heard since they booted Sukarno!). They are apparently engaged in destroying Syria's army at this moment of writing (Syria has been a worse troublemaker than Nasser, actually, and has an even less appetizing set of ruleless and political philosophy). And they have taken non-Israeli Palestine from Jordan, which in itself is a bit unfortunate, as Jordan and Lebanon were just about the only admirable and constructive governments in the area. (Hm, plus Saudi Arabia.)

Null-Q Press (Part II)
Undecided Publication #262

The reality of the Near East situation is simply this: Israel exists, and will continue to exist, though its legal grounds for being are pretty specious. The fact remains that it is there, and must be dealt with on this basis, that its right to continue to exist requires absolute guarantees, both by the world powers (the U.S. & USSR) and the UN.

A peace must be made by the Arabs -- and with the Arabs. Probably it can only be done on a peacemeal basis. For instance, in the case of Jordan, a treaty between the two nations guaranteeing joint customs, even perhaps joint citizenship, joint boundary guarantees, etc. (I'm happy to say I thought of this myself, and then this morning saw Reston making the same proposal in the NYTimes.)

As long as the Arabs pretend that the day will come when the Arabs will push the Israelis into the sea, there will be wars and rumors of wars in the Near East. Even now, after Israel has demonstrated in the most concrete fashion imaginable that the Arabs are incapable of standing up to them in combat, the Arab propagandists are churning out their accustomed spew of hatred and flat-out lies.

One such lie is that the US and Britain provided air support for the Israeli air-attacks on the Arab airports, wrecking the air forces of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq in a surprise attack. By means of this lie, which was thrown back in their teeth by Goldberg and Caradon in the UN, the Arabs hope to salvage their racial pride with the pretence that it was not Israel that defeated them, but America and England.

It won't wash, of course, but it is an interesting insight into the nature of lies and propaganda machines.

Of course, the Soviet Union is going to do a lot of huffing and puffing about the recent events, but since their aim is solely and transparently simply to cause as much trouble as possible, they can be discounted.

The most satisfying aspect of the whole affair is of course the pure drama of the situation: One tiny nation against an array of twelve, forced to conduct its military operations along lines that must have been completely obvious and predictable to the Arabs directly involved -- i.e., the worst possible way to have to fight a war.

And yet they won. They won more handily than they did in the astonishing campaign of 1956 (when the US butted in and made a complete mess of the whole situation and, of course, made the events of June 1967 absolutely inevitable; this is why the US is considered to be run by such a damn pack of fools, by people in the US and around the world who have the US's interests at heart).

They rubbed Nasser's nose in his total ineffectiveness; they gained back their holy city, denied them for twenty years by the Arabs (Jordan had taken what was left of Palestine with no justification whatsoever; it was supposed to be created as an independent country). They have gained absolute military supremacy in the Near East.

The crowning joy of the whole thing was walking down the streets and seeing crowds of young Jewish students with cartons, sheets, boxes, cans, collecting money for Israel -- here were people whose spiritual home had just conducted a brilliant war, and the whole show made me proud and happy to be in the presence of even one aspect of it. Having tried apathy as a racial maneuver against the Germans, they have found -- and proven -- that there are times when men must fight in a just cause. If their vain and arrogant God has at last decided to honor his covenant with his people, let the rest of us rejoice! Hoping you are the same... -- dgw