PREFACE

One question which haunts any researcher on Israel is the legality of its creation. While many have recognized the fact of its existence doubts on its legal foundation still remain. The injustice done to the Arabs of Palestine becomes the yardstick for evaluating the formation of Israel. Hence descriptions such as "the illegitimate off-spring of retreating imperialism" or "a stooge or outpost of the European colonialism" become favourite descriptive phrases for Israel. However, any dispassionate examination will have to go back from the events of the twentieth century.

Zionism is the historical outcome of the Jewish sufferings in the Diaspora. It is the manifestation of the Jewish nationalism. Non-acceptance by fellow nationalist movements does not diminish or eradicate the nationalist character of Zionism. Religion, the basis for their long sufferings, naturally became the rallying point of their nationalism. For a major segment of the Zionists, their return to Zion was a simple affair; 'A people without land going to a land without people'. If this was the case, there would have been no Palestine problem.

Palestine was not an empty and uninhabited land. Realization of the Zionist aspiration for a Jewish