

To Theo Klein, For The Sake Of Peace

Jacques Cheminade released the following letter on Sept. 7. He is president of the French movement Solidarity and Progress, and a pre-candidate for the 2002 French Presidential Election.

I have just been informed of the letter addressed to Ariel Sharon by Theo Klein. . . . It deeply moved me by its tone of truth, which evokes the Jewish tradition and the words of the prophets, not only in order to judge one's own acts, but to understand others. A truly elevated point of view is always expressed in simple terms.

"Your duty is to offer them, as equals, the dawning of a new era, in which both peoples can live and develop within the borders of their state." Indeed, peace can be born through a project, by defining a future ahead of us, and not by establishing a power struggle which is, by its nature, immoral and transitory. I would, however, add that such a project must go further than sharing what exists; it

must be based on mutual development, on sharing a task to be accomplished together.

Great treaties which managed to establish peace in apparently desperate situations, such as the Edict of Nantes or the Treaty of Westphalia, all defined a will to live together. For the Middle East, this community of purpose must be based on economic development plans of mutual interest, starting with water and infrastructure policies. Shimon Peres belongs to a generation that had a certain idea of this approach, which my friend Lyndon LaRouche has elaborated for the past 30 years; he must now find the courage to present and defend it.

On this issue, peace in the Middle East goes beyond Israelis and Palestinians, and is also our responsibility, as Europeans and Americans. Instead of giving lessons, we should contribute human and financial resources to supply a concrete basis for this peace, one of regional great projects by which the living standards of the Palestinians can be raised to conditions of human dignity.

My answer to Theo Klein is thus to say to our European states and their people: "What are you ready to do for peace? What manpower and what financial means are you willing to come up with? If your words are not followed by acts, you will be as dried fig trees."

minds, ending a conflict by arms can never be moral."

May I reaffirm the conviction that I had the privilege of telling you personally, on the eve of your election: the first step to be taken, one that is both a historical necessity and, above all, a moral imperative, is to recognize that the Palestinians have the freedom to proclaim their state. It is necessary to go even further and claim for Israel the privilege of being the first state to recognize the legitimacy of this State of Palestine: A state with which Israel must share common land.

The representative authorities of both states must negotiate a cease-fire: then, later, the drawing of the border. The Palestinian nation was born on the same upsurge as the one that allowed the birth of the Israeli nation. Putting an end to the fratricidal struggle that sets the two inheritors of the same land against one another can only be accomplished by a fair division. Jerusalem, to which we have never stopped looking and which we have longed for, must become the symbol of a shared future. We must stop this blind confrontation, which feeds on blood, suffering, and hate.

Today, you alone carry on your shoulders, voluntarily, the supreme responsibility. Your problem is not to measure the credibility of the leader of the Palestinians—that is their business. Your duty is to offer them, as equals, the dawning of a new era, in which both peoples can live and develop within the borders of their state. Israel's honor, which you are

responsible for, must be to offer peace, without subjecting it or abandoning it to the good will of extremists.

What about terrorism, you might ask? It can only be fought, as you well know, within each people—once they no longer consider it as a form of combat. If a terrorist is supported by the people, he becomes a combatant.

As you well know, in order to impose a return to "absolute calm for seven days" on a Palestinian Authority whose structures have been destroyed, requires recognizing the state whence that authority must issue.

This historical role imposed on you by Israeli democracy can only be assumed if you realize that the decision can only depend upon you alone.

You know it, you have told me so: It is neither tanks nor missiles that provide a solution to this deadly conflict, rife with fear and hatred. You are no longer that daring general. You are not crossing the Suez Canal for a second time! Today, Ariel Sharon, you are responsible for the history of Israel; its honor is at stake. Tear down the wall of hate, overturn the barriers of rejection, go and offer the Palestinian people, in the name of the Israeli people, the bread and salt of peace and good-neighborliness.

Yes, I admit it, my words do not have the same apparent solidity as military action. They run the risk of being misunderstood, but all of human history teaches us that only intelligence can conquer violence. Be firm and courageous.