

OH 2640

“An Oral History with Dr. Robert Gorden”

Narrator: Dr. Robert Gorden

Interviewer: Allison Rubalcava

Date: October 31, 1997

Location: Dr. Gorden's office

Abstract:

An oral history with Dr. Robert Gorden, a resident of Orange County, California. This interview was conducted for the Palestinian and Jewish Reconciliation Oral History Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was discuss Dr. Gorden's involvement in peace movements such as the Cousins Club, his take on the peace process in the Middle East and the role of religion and politics in this conflict. This interview includes discussion about Dr. Gorden's youth in Israel, including involvement in an illegal peace group and serving in the military as a medic; speaks at length about the role of religion and nationalism in the creation of conflicts worldwide and especially in the Middle East; talks about the need for a home for Jewish people and Zionism; comments on Israeli policy regarding expansion and Netanyahu's political tactics; talks about the PLO and asserts that any political group without a nation is technically a terrorist group; discusses the Oslo Agreements and why he feels they did not last; speaks about the Cousins Club as an opportunity for peaceful dialogue and its goals such as sending money to a Peace school for Arab children; and discusses his anti-war beliefs at length.

OH 2638

“An Oral History with Nabil Dajani”

Narrator: Nabil Dajani

Interviewer: Allison Rubalcava

Date: October 18, 1997

Location: Mr. Dajani's home

Abstract:

An oral history with Nabil Dajani, a resident of Orange County, California. This interview was conducted for the Palestinian and Jewish Reconciliation Oral History Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Mr. Dajani's youth in Jerusalem, his views on the Israeli-Palestinian affairs, as well as his involvement in the Cousins Club and its desire for peace. This interview includes discussion about conditions in Jerusalem before the Israeli War of Independence in 1948, and making a new home in Egypt; speaks briefly about attending a Quaker School outside of Jerusalem; tells about revisiting his home years later and being denied entrance; comments on the involvement of the Arab world in the conflict; reveals his belief that the problem is one of politics and not religion, and that he does not believe the current Israeli government is looking for a peaceful solution; discusses peace as two countries with open border, “divided but united;” comments on poor

conditions in Gaza; talks in detail about how his experiences have influenced his desire for peace; and speaks about forming the Cousins Club in Orange County.

OH 2639

“An Oral History with Jamal Awad”

Narrator: Jamal Awad

Interviewer: Allison Rubalcava

Date: November 4, 1997

Location: Mr. Awad’s office

Abstract:

An oral history with Jamal Awad, a resident of Orange County, California. This interview was conducted for the Palestinian and Jewish Reconciliation Oral History Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Mr. Awad’s experiences during the 1967 War in Israel, his opinions of the PLO, Hamas and Israel, as well as his involvement in the Cousins Club and its desire for peace. This interview includes discussion about the popularity and effectiveness of the Zionist movement, the PLO, and Hamas; speaks in detail about the War of 1967 and how this affected his family, including a move to Damascus; reveals he does not think either Israelis or Jews on an international level want peace; comments on Israeli and United States diplomacy in general and their handling of the Palestinian Conflict; and discusses the Cousins Club of Orange County and how it tries to view both sides of the situation.