'War Is Deceit,' Or Which PLO Charter Do You Read?

by Hugh Fitzgerald

The PLO Charter that calls for the destruction of Israel was adopted in 1964, that is, three years before there was a single Israeli in the West Bank, Gaza, or the Golan Heights. It was abundantly clear in the Charter that even within the pre-1967 lines — which are the same as the 1949 armistice lines — Israel was not to be allowed to exist. When the Oslo Accords were reached in 1993 and 1995, the Palestinians — presenting an image of having modified their views — with great fanfare added amendments that demonstrated their supposed transformation into a "partner for peace" with the Jewish state. One of the amendments even recognized a Jewish connection to the land. But in early March, the Palestinian television broadcast a program in which the PLO Charter was presented stripped of those amendments, reading just as it did in 1964.

A report on that program is here: "Palestinian TV broadcasts 1964 PLO Charter calling for Israel's destruction," [Palestinian Media Watch](), March 16, 2021:

> *"Clause 16 states that the liberation of Palestine, from an international perspective, is a defensive operation necessitated by self-defense, as determined by the UN Charter" alongside the old Fatah logo that includes crossed rifles and the map of "Palestine" that includes all of Israel, together with this text: "Al-Asifa — the Palestinian National Liberation Movement"*

What was left out of the PA TV broadcast is just as significant as what was included. Most specifically, there is no reference to the fact that the PA obligated itself to cancel all the clauses of the PLO Charter calling for Israel's destruction, under the terms of the Oslo Accords.

The narrator's introductory explanation likewise denies Israel's right to exist — saying Israel exists on Arab "stolen homeland" and therefore "returning it"— that is, recovering it — is an act of "self-defense":

> *"The Charter… is based on the right to **self-defense and to the return of the stolen homeland in its entirety***