

5 December 2004

Dear Sir,

If Hansen's response to the question about the Palestinian textbooks used in UNRWA schools has been correctly and fully reported, ("Peter Hansen Fires Back", Oct. 12th 2004), then it is disingenuous.

Hansen knows full well that over the past three years criticism has been leveled not at the Jordanian and Egyptian books that were used by the Palestinian Authority, but at the new books produced by the Authority itself from 2000 onwards. In September 2002 CMIP supplied him with a selection of quotations to back up this criticism.

If the "two-year study on the evolution of the textbooks, conducted by a George Washington University professor", referred to by Hansen, is a reference to the paper produced by Nathan Brown, CMIP has Brown's confirmation that its findings did not relate to the new textbooks produced from 2000 onwards "[Brown's] own paper simply could not have referred to CMIP's 2001 report because it was written before that report came out...".

From November 2001 CMIP has produced four reports covering all the books produced by the Palestinian Authority to date, comprising some two thirds of the Palestinian curriculum. These reports are available on our website www.edume.org and give a clear picture of what is taught in UNWRA schools concerning Jews, Judaism, Zionism, Israel and Peace. A cursory glance at these reports will enable the reader to see Hansen's evasions for what they are.

Sincerely,

Naomi Babbitt
Managing Director
CMIP