

20 December 2004

Dear Sir:

**Re: “Palestinian Textbooks: where is all that ‘incitement’” by Roger Avenstrup,
18th December 2004**

Roger Avenstrup will find the answer to the question in the title to his article in the four reports published so far by the Center for Monitoring the Impact of Peace (CMIP). These survey the new Palestinian textbooks, which replaced the Egyptian and Jordanian textbooks to which he refers as the basis of the original allegations of incitement. In addition, CMIP has addressed the two IPCRI reports (which, incidentally, raise very serious questions in regard to the PA textbooks), as well as the papers published by the Georg Eckert Institute. All these together with correspondence with the EU concerning the statement allegedly clearing the new textbooks of incitement, can be found on our website at www.edume.org.

Unlike textbooks of certain Arab states and the Egyptian and Jordanian textbooks, which they are replacing, the Palestinian textbooks do not contain an open call for war against Israel or virulent anti-Semitic expressions. They do, however, deny the legitimacy of the connection between the Jews and the country of Palestine so that no Jewish holy places are mentioned as such, only Muslim holy places that an attempt is being made to Judaize; portray the State of Israel as a usurper and as an illegitimate entity not to be recognized, a colonialist/imperialist implant, the source of all the catastrophes that has befallen the Palestinian people; Palestine is not clearly limited to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but extends to the whole of the country to the west of the Jordan; teach the pupil that the obligation of all peoples is to liberate themselves and exercise self determination, the virtues of Jihad and the glorification of the martyrs and martyrdom. The fidai, who fights the occupier anywhere, is a hero and role model.

What is the message of all this to the pupil?

Sincerely,

Naomi Babbín

CMIP