



Terence Prittie

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Terence Prittie

'Terence Cornelius Farmer Prittie, 15 December 1913 – 28 May 1985, In Memoriam', *Britain & Israel*, August 1985, [1]



TERENCE PRITTIE was an exceptionally pure-hearted, fair-minded and honourable man, who hated barbarism and injustice, and believed that speaking the truth in public might help to diminish both. His despatches to the *Manchester Guardian* on foreign affairs were among the best balanced and most influential that appeared in the British press in the post-war years.

He was an indefatigable and well-informed researcher, a scrupulously accurate and lucid writer and an admirable stylist. These qualities characterised his writings on German affairs, and after he left *The Guardian*, his reports on Israel and general Jewish issues. What was most valuable in them was not only their excellent judgement and unswerving integrity, but the fact that they were based on, and conveyed, convictions which came from the heart: he believed that the creation of the state of Israel was the righting of a great historical wrong, and that whatever opinion one might have about particular administrations or policies of the state, the creation and existence of Israel were moral necessities of the first order, and deserved support by all decent human beings against the many voices which were (and are) raised against it.

TERENCE PRITTIE

He despised anti-Semitism as something profoundly ignoble, and saw much anti-Israeli feeling stemming from it: and he was determined to fight against it.

He was patriotic without being nationalistic, and he believed that Israeli democracy embodied values and an outlook similar to those of Britain, so that friendship between them was natural and would be strengthened if clouds of falsehood were dispelled. His acute sense of the ridiculous saved him from any touch of solemnity or priggishness, and his charm, courtesy and moving sincerity were great moral assets to all the causes in which he believed.

He was truly a friend in need, and his services to the cause of Israel and Anglo–Israeli understanding will not be forgotten for many a long day.

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