have a hard time appreciating the difference.

In an apartheid system, land is reserved for the dominant group, the "natives" are subject to a different legal system, they cannot live and work where they wish and their main function is providing cheap labor-power. This is an exact description of Israeli policies in the occupied territories as documented in a series of research reports, directed by Dr. M. Benvenisti of Jerusalem and published by the Israeli *Jerusalem Post*. Not for nothing. Gaza is referred to recently by the Israeli press as the "Soweto of Tel Aviv."

Sabin's distortions should not distract us from the main point. In one territory—Israel/Palestine—two nations live. Both regard it as their only homeland and have no other place to go. The only solution to this conflict is division of the territory between them.

Ran Greenstein

. . .and apartheid

To the Editor:

Regarding Zvi Sabin's response to the column about the state of Palestinians in the West Bank (Letter to the Editor, "About Israel...," 1½3): I have lived in both Israel and South Africa, and I think the similarities between the two are quite striking. I would ask him if he's ever been to Gaza, because conditions there are worse than in any township I have ever seen, even the Orange Free State. So let's look at the facts.

In South Africa, blacks are not citizens; their movement is restricted outside the homelands; they work for 20 to 50 percent of what a white man earns; and they are shipped in and out of white cities and dorps (villages) by special transportation. They are frequently searched by police, who wander through the townships carrying automatic weapons.

In Israel, MOST Arabs are not citizens; if they live on the West Bank they have special license plates on their cars that forbid them from entering Israel; they work for 30 to 60 percent of what an Israeli would earn; and every morning buses stop in Gaza and other cities in occupied territories to bring Arab workers into Israel. Police harass Arabs continually, even those who are citizens; even in progressive Haifa they frequently search Arabs (and those who look like Arabs) for little or no reason. Eighteen-year-old Israelis walk through Arab cities with Uzis, fingers on the trigger.

As far as courts go, Mr. Sabin's comments are quite wrong. His choice of Zulus is especially unfortunate because Natal, though far from a bastion of freedom, has one of the fairest court systems in Southern Africa. I would much rather be a Zulu on trial in Durban than an Arab on trial in the West Bank. At least the Natal courts have not ruled that it's OK for police to kill someone in detention.

In both countries there are members of the ruling class who are willing to negotiate with the ruled, but that does not make everything all right.

I am Jewish and proud of all the work that has been done in Israel, and if the country were threatened I would go immediately to defend it. But we have no right to the West Bank and Gaza; we are nothing but thieves for stealing their water. I don't care what our Arab neighbors do; we are only responsible to God for ourselves. Our actions in the occupied territories are destroying our soul; we must give them their freedom.

South Africa is just a little further down the road, but then, they've had apartheid for 40 years—we've only had the territories for 20.

Harold Koehn