

The so-called "Palestine Arab Refugee Institution" is not an independent Arab refugee organization, but, in fact, an integral part of the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It is worth noting here that at the beginning of this month, the executive secretary of the American Friends of the Middle East, William Archer Wright Jr., defended the Syrian ambassador against charges of anti-Semitism, and went on to say that Dr. Farid Zeinedinne was "well aware that ... Zionism and Judaism are two different things; and that he bore no ill will against the latter."

On the Question of Zionism

Here again, the leader in the campaign of vilification and abuse directed at Zionism are the American Friends of the Middle East.

First, a brief word -- probably quite unnecessary -- defining what Zionism is. A Zionist is an individual who, having once supported the creation of a National Homeland for the Jews in Palestine, now approaches the emerged State of Israel as the spiritual center of Jewish civilization. On the contemporary American scene, the specific objectives of the Zionists are to gain U. S. support in securing Israel's borders, in strengthening her economy, and in enlarging her democracy. Inspiring these efforts is a profound faith in Israel's historic mission to provide a haven for persecuted and disadvantaged Jews. Some 16 of the 17 Jewish organizations in America vigorously champion this cause -- in much the same way as the Syrian-Lebanese federations, the Hibernian Societies, proselyte on behalf of their "homelands." Zionists are not only good Americans, but they have some claim to being good Near Easterners, too. They have, for instance, lobbied in Washington for economic aid to the Arab peoples.

But, for the American Friends of the Middle East, Zionists form a "multi-million dollar lobby" that "dictates" policy in Washington and "controls" the press. Zionism and Communism are linked together, and it is noted that "Israel is the only nation in the Middle East with a recognized Communist party." When the recent Communist-Cairo arms deal was announced, Hopkins issued a statement charging Zionist pressures had forced Egypt to seek arms from the Soviet world. In fact, there are very few Near Eastern conflicts or catastrophes that are not ascribed to Zionism by the American Friends of the Middle East. And since the Near East rarely presents a benign picture, the scapegoat possibilities of Zionism are innumerable.

As this is a Presidential election year, a particularly curious species of propaganda has now been evolved by this organization. Thus, several weeks ago, the American Friends of the Middle East sponsored a half-page ad in