

States and offices in certain of the Arab states. The Vice President, and the organization's most active publicist, is Garland Evans Hopkins.

The American Friends of the Middle East radiates pressures which are diametrically opposed to the spirit of Arab-Israeli conciliation. They also usually run counter, I cannot help feeling, to the democratic aspirations of the Arab peoples themselves. The organization's closest ties are with the oil sheikhs, the feudal land-owning class, the Arab League propagandists.

On the Right of Israel to Exist

Although on carefully selected occasions this Thompson-Hopkins enclave have publicly acknowledged the existence of Israel, the actual influence exerted on public opinion, being motivated by quite contrary emotions, is patently inimical to Israel. Hopkins was reliably reported to have said recently: "The Balfour Declaration is a fraud; the Partition Decision of 1947 was bought with 30 pieces of silver; therefore, Israel has no right to exist." In his public utterances on Arab-Israeli issues, Hopkins, using a trick made familiar by Father Coughlin, has in effect been saying that unless Jews in America support what he wants them to support, a wave of anti-Semitism may sweep the country. Consequently, in a patently contrived effort to head off any charges of anti-Semitism, a Jew, Elmer Berger, has been given office, and prominence, as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Friends of the Middle East. The significant point here, however, is that Berger is also one of the leading lights in the American Council for Judaism, the one Jewish entity which violently opposed the creation of Israel.

The only question that is not clear to me is whether such views and practises have originated spontaneously or whether they have been imposed by the more extreme Arab propagandists at work in this country. The latter have sought to envenom the free discussion of Arab-Israel issues by Americans with anti-Semitism. A particularly poisonous -- and blatant -- form is that injected into the publications distributed by representatives of the Syrian Republic in the United States. Note the following items excerpted from Bulletin 41 of "The Palestine Arab Refugees' Institution:"

"Zionism through terrible and crooked methods, has been able to deceive the world that the Zionists are the enemies of the Arabs alone... Irrefutable historical evidence proves that Christians were the first to suffer as a result of Jewish plots and intrigues. Moreover, many massacres of Christians were caused either directly or indirectly by Jews." (Page 7)

"Another Jewish writer says: 'The eradication of Christianity is the main task of the Jews.'" (Page 9)