

Near East. Fortunately, this has now also become the declared objective of the United States Government, and amplifies the previously announced policy of "impartiality to the peoples of the area." It is worth quoting here from the concluding portion of a foreign policy address made on August 26 by our Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles. He said:

"Both sides [Arabs and Israelis] in this strife have a noble past, a heritage of rich contributions to civilization, both have fostered progress in science and the arts. Each side is predominantly representative of one of the world's great religions. Both sides desire to achieve a good life for their people and to share, and contribute to, the advancements of this century....

"The spirit of conciliation and of the good neighbor brings rich rewards to the people and to the nations. If doing that involves some burdens, they are burdens which the United States would share."

The objective advanced here is a simple one. On a statement of fact -- the inherent value of both Arabs and Israelis as peoples -- is predicated a goal: reconciliation. We Americans once supported the respective aspirations to independence of both the Zionists and the Arabs. We must now help to create among them a sense of their interdependence.

The Double Test

There is a way by which Americans can measure their attitudes towards Arab-Israeli problems. Two basic questions are involved. Have we recognized the individual right of existence of both the Arab states and Israel? Are we helping to foster a spirit of conciliation between them? This is the double test which, taking our inspiration from Brotherhood Week, we must apply to organizations educating American public opinion about the Near East.

Would all such organizations active today pass this double test? I am sorry to report that an articulate handful would not. That is why, now, during Brotherhood Week, I feel it necessary to discuss issues primarily relating to the American scene. An openly malicious and secretly vicious campaign of lies and distortions is being waged by some Americans against the goal of Arab-Israeli reconciliation. It is mainly taking the form of an attack (1) on Israel's right to exist and (2) on the right of the Zionist groups of America to carry out their duly chartered activities.

A leader in this campaign is the American Friends of the Middle East, a private non-profit organization headed by Dorothy Thompson. Its headquarters are in New York, but it has several regional branches in the United