

**ANTI - JEWISH ACTIVITIES
OF THE
ARABS IN ARGENTINE**

**DELEGACION DE ASOCIACIONES
ISRAELITAS ARGENTINAS (D. A. I. A)**

BUENOS AIRES

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P R E L I M I N A R Y W O R D S

The relations between the Jewish and Arab population in Argentina have always been normal. There is no genuine problem to disturb their peaceful co-existence, but there exists an increasing tendency to project among us the hate felt by the feudal rulers in the Middle East against the State of Israel, attempting to convert it here in anti-Jewish activity. The Arabs' "anti-Semitism" is per se an incongruity in their way of defining racialism, since they, too, are Semites. However, the confabulation of the Arab anti-Jewish feelings with nazism and other dark forces explains such aberration, whose seriousness is aggravated by the disturbance created in Argentine life and the danger it represents for the people's unity.

The present paper, without claiming to be exhaustive, intends to study the evolution of this hostility, artificially promoted from abroad. Confronted with these intolerable manifestations, the Jews renew their confidence that here as in the Middle East, reason and solidarity shall prevail over irrational hate and unjustified aggression.-

April 1958.-

CHAPTER I

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE ARABS IN ARGENTINA

The Arab population in Argentina, including persons of Arab origin, amounts, according to unofficial estimates, to some 400 to 500,000 persons. Of them, some 50,000 reside in Buenos Aires.

The first Arabs came to this country in 1868 and during the later part of the last century there was a great immigratory current of Arabs to the Argentina.

The Arab immigrants settled in the entire territorial extension of the country, i.e. in the rich as well as in the so-called poor areas.

Dr. Santiago M. Peralta, former director of the Migration Office, whose well known pro-Arab inclination made him publish a book called "The Action of the Arab People in Argentina - some notes on Immigration", says in various parts of it that the Arabs, who initially arrived as settlers and agricultors, soon became businessmen and peddlers. He states that the immense majority of the Arabs are businessmen, adding that in every province they created centers of Arab tradesmen, of independent status. Many powerful commercial concerns in this country are of Arab origin, specially so in the textile branch. In the Capital they have constituted typical quarters, grouped in families according to the country of origin or to faith.-

While the Arabs are dispersed through the whole country, their numbers are greater in provinces like Catamarca, Santiago del Estero, Tucumán and La Rioja.

The same Dr. Peralta says : "In poor regions, where the European does not settle, due to the climate and the surroundings, the Arab establishes himself generally as shopkeeper, starts working like everybody else and crowns his career devoting himself to national politics, which he does passionately. He marries native women and cares that his children be loyal Argentines. He is the most easily adapted of all immigrants who come to these beaches; he may be compared to the Spaniard as to the blood in his veins." This quotation confirms amply the great assimilability of the Arabs and of their descendants to the Argentine way of life. Solely due to external events of recent years and also to the action of emissaries who came specially from abroad, has there been an awakening in many Arabs and also in their descendants of

the second and third generation of a feeling of solidarity and attachment to the cause of the Arab people of the Middle East, a feeling which the Arab League and other foreign agents are trying to channel into a great nationalist Arab movement, an objective which they have not yet achieved in the measure desired.

The majority of the Arabs in our country is of Syrian-Lebanese origin; few of them are from Palestina, Mesopotamy, Egypt and North Africa. Most of them are Christians pertaining to the Syrian Church, Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Schismatics, of the Greek Rite or other sects.-

The Arab immigrants display a high birthrate and their physical and psychological traits are - according to Dr. Peralta - so similar to those of the natives that "in the regions of the interior they are as Argentine as the Mestees".-

Generally, the Arab communities are not known as of great cultural level. There are Arabs in all the professions and in all activities spiritual and intellectual, but they participate to a very small degree in the universities, in the scientific centers and in literary activities, and not many Arabs are outstanding in these fields.-

CHAPTER II

THE RELATIONS BETWEEN ARABS AND JEWS IN ARGENTINA.

There have always been good relations between the Arab communities and the Jews in Argentina, especially between the Syrian-Lebanese Jews and the Arabs from the same countries, either due to their common Semitic origin or due to the common interests which brought them in contact in this land. The close commercial relation between the members of these communities has always been well known. It cannot be said that it has disappeared now, but it is rather of a personal character and not demonstratively official. This change has taken place since the establishment of the State of Israel and the Independence war, in 1948.-

The great Jewish textile firms, e.g., have been closely associated with the great Arab industrialists and businessmen, to the point that they were all generally taken by the people to be Arabs or "Turks". Furthermore, even today, it can easily be observed how Jewish and Syrian-Lebanese or other Arab Businessmen fraternize, when their shops are contiguous in certain quarters.

Good examples of such attitude can be observed in quarters like "Once" or "Canning".

It is worthwhile to stress, as a symbol of this fraternizing, that among the founders and directors of the Syrian - Lebanese Bank there were a good many Jews of that origin, and even today a great number of Jewish firms, Sephardic as well as Ashkenazi, operate with said Bank.

Currently there are several radio transmissions for the Arab community on the local broadcasts. While in them Jews or the State of Israel cannot be attacked, as a consequence of the standing regulations on broadcasts, it is obvious, on the other hand, that no trace of friendship towards Jews or Israel can be expected. Nonetheless, there exists a transmission, given over L.S.6 Radio del Pueblo, in which Syrian-Lebanese Arabs and Jews mix in the advertising; this transmission is far from being aggressive with regard to Jews.-

In order to give an idea of the kind of cordial relations which reigned among these communities, we wish to record that Jewish names, like José Jorge and Moisés Tobal appeared in the executive committee of the Syrian-Lebanese Welfare Society (Patronato Sirio-Libanés), in September 1946, together with names like Moisés José Azize, Tufik Sarquis etc., who took part in the Arab nationalist movements of the last years.-

In August 1946 the executive committee of the Syrian-Lebanese Chamber of Commerce displayed Jewish names like Elías Teubal and Victor Yattah.-

In June 1946 a mission of the Lebanese government arrived here, headed by the plenipotentiary minister Dr. Yusef Sauda. Among the many friendship demonstrations which were tendered to the mission, there was one of the Syrian-Lebanese Jewish community, which organized a reception in the Plaza Hotel. On that occasion the speakers were Nellm Yacar, currently a leader of the Sephardic United Appeal for Israel, Mr. Nissim Teubal, distinguished leader of the Sephardic community and Dr. Sauda, who acknowledged the reception on behalf of his government, expressing that "Judaism and the Lebanese people will always be united, with the same patriotic and national feeling, without difference of race or faith".-

In this respect it is worthwhile remembering that this reception was duly announced and commented by the "EL Diario Sirio Libanés", in its edition of June 12th, 1946. This attitude contrasts with the line taken by the same journal since the establishment of the State of Israel.-

It may be noted too that several days later the Syrian-Lebanese community tendered Dr.Sauda a reception in "Les Ambassadeurs", at which Elias Andraos, missionary clergyman, was present. He won certain notoriety lately with the publication of two pamphlets and an article in the catholic paper "El Pueblo", of Buenos Aires, in which he propagated the slander of the desecration of the holy sites in Jerusalem by Jews and spoke of the persecution against the catholic Church in Israel. Also present in that reception was Rosendo Allub, notorious for his important functions in the Peronist movement, and Mr. Elias Richa, then chairman of the Lebanese Patriotic Association, who presided the reception and who, in later years, led several solidarity campaigns with the Arab countries in their struggle against Israel.-

The examples cited above serve to visualize the degree of friendship and cordiality which existed between the Jewish and the Arab communities. Currently there are many Arabs, many of respected status, who feel favourably towards the Jews and fervently wish for peace between Israel and the Arab countries, so that both communities may fraternize the world over. But the hostile atmosphere created by the objective factors, and which was and is being sharpened by the Arab emissaries, creating false conflicts and heating animadversions, hinders those Arabs to take steps towards the creation of some official body which might publicly symbolize the Arab-Jewish friendship. In our institutional circles much thought was given this matter, and the Latin-American Convention for the Peace in the Middle East, celebrated in Montevideo during March 1956 stressed the need to support such initiatives, though attempts in that direction failed.-

Summarizing, it may be said that generally, there is no bad feeling on the part of the Arabs, taken individually, against their Jewish neighbours, i.e., among the great Arab mass there are no firmly rooted anti-Jewish feelings, but the segregation is apparent among the leading classes, in the institutional life and among those who hold some representative position; these people avoid being taken publicly as connected to Jews by bonds of friendship.

CHAPTER III

THE ARABS AND THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT DURING 1945 -1955

If we look at the political situation of the Argentine Republic around the years 1945 -1946, we remember that the Arabs placed themselves in open opposition to the sectors of firm democratic tradition grouped around the "Unión Democrática", due to the belief that "if they come to rule, the men of the Unión Democrática will pronounce themselves infallibly against the

Arab rights and in favour of the zionist pretensions, whenever there will be an issue in the Council of the United Nations." These are the textual words of Rafael Lahoud (who deployed great action later in Arab campaigns), published by the journal "La Calle", on the 21st December 1945. It should be recorded that this "Infallibly favourable vote to the zionist pretensions" on the part of certain sectors of the "Unión Democrática" was not so certain, but, anyhow, it was obvious that the "Comité Argentino Pro-Palestina" was composed of people pertaining to this political front, with many great friends of the Zionist cause. The words of Lahoud in this regard are illustrative: "The groups of the "Unión Democrática" have stated, one after the other, their firm support of the Zionist pretensions in Palestine. That means that these groups, meddling in affairs that don't regard them, have declared themselves publicly as enemies of all the Syrians and Lebanese residing in the country, forcing them to adopt consequently an attitude of obstinate opposition. For these reasons, the 400,000 Syrians and Lebanese and their descendants are firmly opposed to the socalled Unión Democrática and must prevent at any cost its taking the power. Their national interests impose this attitude, as it is imposed as well by the blood of their martyrs, generously and abundantly shed in many encounters". (Our emphasis).

Already under the government of the de facto president, General E.J.Farrel, immediate forerunner of Perón, certain measures were adopted that deserved the acknowledgment of the Arab community, as for example the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Lebanese Republic, Saudi Arabia and Irak, the support in the United Nations of Arab positions, the privileges granted by the then Director of Migrations, intimately connected with the Presidency, Dr. Santiago M.Peralta, who authorized the settlement in our country of 3,000 Arab families, to whom "the State will give land in order to root themselves firmly in the country as colonists and not as businessmen. It is no coincidence that while through diverse administrative measures adopted by the same Dr.Peralta, the immigration of Jewish families to Argentina was prevented, though most of them had been rescued from the war, the Director of the Migration Office should say: "I want to bring in several tens of thousands of Arabs. You know that the only thing I miss in my friendship with you is the fact that I am no moslem myself". (From statements made to the journal "La Natura", published the 30th January 1946.)

On the 1st June 1946, the Syrian-Lebanese Communities offered to the Provisional President General E.J.Farrel a reception of hommage in "Les Ambassadeurs", together with the Argentine foreign minister Dr.Juan I.Cooke, and the former Argentine minister in Great Britain, Dr.Miguel Angel Cárcano.-

Immediately after the electoral triumph of General Perón, the authorities of the Syrian-Lebanese Club "Honor y Patria" tendered a dinner to the Eng. Ramón Asis, an outstanding member of that community, elected vice-governor of Córdoba Province. Similar tributes were rendered to him in his own city of Córdoba and other places.

The same Club "Honor y Patria", offered on the 30th October 1946 a reception for the interior minister Angel G. Borlenghi. This hommage was led by the national member of parliament Rosendo Allub, member of the Arab community.-

Many Arabs or descendants from Arabs occupied high positions and important posts in the government of General Perón, especially in the national and provincial parliaments, in the province governments, etc.. There is no point in enumerating them; we shall mention only the ex senator Leónidas Vicente Saadi, not only for the outstanding part he played in the peronist government, but also because he is active in the present politics of the country and has founded a party, the "Partido Populista", neo-peronist in character. In the newspaper "Democracia" of August 26, 1946, it is stressed that in the parliament of the Catamarca Province, "his brother Antonio and his cousins Jalil Nellar, Aybur Damaceno, Alberto Seleme and Bramú Mají" are deputies.

In the parliament of Santiago del Estero there was also a good number of members pertaining to the Arab communities. This was ironically stressed by a magazine, saying that "the official language in the Santiago del Estero parliament should be Syrian-Lebanese, since they form majority."

On the 10th August 1946 the Sociedad Siria Yabrudense presented General Perón with a gold plaque, as tribute of the Syrian community.

In 1947, while Dr. José Arce headed the Argentine delegation to the UN, our country took in that international body a stand contrary to the partition of Palestine, and in agreement with the Arab position. This caused a great wave of friendship towards the Argentine government on the part of the Arab communities in the country. Thus, from many cities cables were despatched to the President, to the foreign minister (then Dr. Juan Atilio Bramuglia, who later lost Perón's friendship and who leads presently the Unión Popular party, of neo-peronist character), and to the delegate before the UN. Among others, there were cables from the Syrian-Lebanese society of Santiago del Estero, from the Arab journal "Los Dones" in Tucumán, from the Syrian-Lebanese society in Jujuy, the Syrian-Lebanese club of San Juan, from the Arab-Moslem society in Córdoba, from the Syrian commercial center, on behalf of the Syrian-Lebanese community of Campo Santo, Salta; from Basilio Sabha, representing the Arab

League in Tartagal (Salta), and from the Central Arab Committee for Aid to Palestine, signed by its general secretary, Elías Richa. The paper "El Laborista" published, on the 21st October 1947 an ample illustrated note, headed "An Arab subject thanks Perón for our policy".-

Around that time arrived to Argentina the Lebanese minister, Dr. Gabriel Tueni. The newspaper "Democracia" published an ample interview with Dr. Tueni, full of very complimentary words for General Perón, headed: "Lebanon, like our country, stakes its hopes in a Five Year Plan. Dr. Tueni, minister in Argentina, said so."

The Arab communities generally, and in particular the Syrian-Lebanese club "Honor y Patria" of Buenos Aires, used to organize periodically hommages and receptions for public officials, ministers, Peronist deputies, etc., in order to express the acknowledgment for their pro-Arab attitudes, or to win their good-will.

Thus, a reception was tendered the former finance minister Dr. Ramón A. Cereijo (July 1st, 1948).-

On September 18, 1950, General Perón was rewarded the Order of Umaya, granted to him by the Syrian government, given for the first time to a non-Arab ruler.

In July 1950 it was announced that the Constituent Assembly of Syria had approved a request to the government to give the name "Argentina" to a street in Damascus "as token of the close diplomatic relations between Syria and Argentina, resulting from a long history, and in view of the fact that our brethren, the immigrants, find in **that** country protection for their rights, the closest attention to their problems and an immense concern for their interests, relations fully tried in all international fields and world diplomatic congresses."

On August 30, 1950, the Arab speaking communities in our country offered a hommage in "Les Ambassadeurs" to General Perón and to his wife. According to the newspapers "it displayed once more the feelings of solidarity of the industrious members of these communities, in their support of the government and of the president, and of the worthy work in the social field of his spouse." On that occasion, among others, spoke Mr. Elías Richa, well known for his work among the Arab community. In an interview published by "La Epoca" on April 19, 1954, this gentleman expressed that "If only Perón could speak during two minutes to each inhabitant, the whole world would be Peronist."

The paper introduces Mr. Richa as president of the Lebanese House, and the interview was given on occasion of the hommage which on the following day was to be offered by the Arab residents of our country to General Perón, in "Les Ambassadeurs". On that occasion

he expressed: "General Perón deserves our gratitude because, thanks to him, to his vision of a great statesman, he was able to appreciate the importance and the weight of the Arab speaking countries in the world concert of the nations, which can, together with their peoples, arbitrate the international controversy between Orient and Occident. In effect, Perón was the first constitutional President of Argentina who established formal relations with the Arab speaking countries, raising them in the prestige and the dignity of the world consensus." Other presidents had expressed laudatory words for our community, but not one of them recognized them in the legal international field." He termed General Perón "The statesman of greatest genius in the world". "After Napoleon, the world had not seen a figure of such unique traits like those who embellish the personality of the Leader". For his part, the editor concludes saying that "Don Elías Richa is one of the framers of the community which counts more than one million Arabs and Arab descendants, and who collaborated morally and materially in the establishment of more than twenty social, cultural and beneficent institutions, banks and hospitals."

For his part, the foreign minister of Lebanon, Dr. Tacla, rewarded Perón and his wife with the insignia of the Order of Merit in its highest rank, and with the National Order of Cedar, respectively. Dr. Tacla was given in National Congress a reception in the hall of honour of the Chamber's presidency.-

A note in the newspaper "Democracia" on the 6th March, 1952, informs that "The legation of Egypt in our country has decided to direct the acquisition and diffusion in the Middle East of the Arab edition of the book "La Razón de mi Vida", by the wife of the Republic's President, Mrs. Eva Perón".-

It is interesting to note that on August 23d, 1955, i.e. 20 days before Perón's fall, the paper "El Líder" brought the announcement of the creation of the Chair for Arab Studies in the Department for Modern Languages in the Humanities Faculty of the Mendoza University.

We wish to add one reflexion to these facts relating to the kind of relations which existed between the distinct elements acting on behalf of the Arab communities, without being disauthorized, and the "de facto" regime of General Farrel and his successor, General Perón, and also to the repeated displays of mutual friendship between the Arab diplomatic missions and the Peronist government and their "justicialist" conception. All this would not have had any particular significance for the Jewish community of the country, had it not coincided with the troubled years immediately after the war, the serious disturbances in the Middle East, of the struggle for the establishment

of the Jewish State, Israel's invasion by Arab armies and the entire sequel of facts generally known, which contributed to the situation that any Ara activity, either in Argentina or in any other place, should appear as opposed to the Jewish community of that place, in a competition for the obtention of the official government support and the good will of the public opinion.

CHAPTER IV

ARAB ACTIVITIES AND PROPAGANDA DURING THE YEARS 1946-1950.

It is obvious that the characteristic traits of the Arab propagandistic activities in our country changed during these years in accordance with the changes wrought in the Middle East's situation. It is, nonetheless interesting to point out that in the action developed during these years, certain persons had notorious parts, and even today play an active role in the campaigns, which formerly appeared to be only anti-Zionist, but which now are openly anti-Jewish.-

In other parts of this paper we mention Elías Richa. Well, this gentleman was the main figure and the spokesman of the Central Arab Committee for Help to Palestine, which, as could be surmised, did not limit its scope to aid, but played an active role politically.- We can state that practically there was no action of certain import, with respect to Arab nationalist propaganda, in which Mr. Elías Richa did not figure. We also wish to record, marginally, that he served as link of union between the Arab community and the Peronist government and movement, whose regime he diligently propagandized.-

Another character of nearly equal nature is Ibrahim Hallar, Director of the National Arab Library in Argentina, who always appeared as Spanish speaker in the meetings organized by the Arab Central Committee (22-2-48 in the Astral Theater).-

On January 16, 1947 he spoke in a meeting organized by the Syrian-Lebanese club, to render tribute to Emilio Constantino, editor of "El Diario Sirio-Libanés".-

In a public meeting on November 2d 1947, in the San Martin Square, at which some 4,000 persons attended "in order to express to the Argentine people and government their acknowledgment for the attitude adopted by the official delegation of our country before the assembly of the UN, in defense of the Palestine sovereignty", Mr. Elías Richa spoke in Arabic. An official delegation of the Arab States for Palestine also spoke, and then, in his capacity of vice-secretary of the Central Committee for Aid to Arab Palestine in Buenos Aires, Mr. Ibrahim H. Hallar was given the word. After quoting sentences pronounced by General

Perón in his 17 October speech, referring to international politics, and after commenting the Argentine position, he added: "We are congregated today around this symbol of Argentina, and we have selected precisely this day, November 2nd, because 30 years have passed since Lord Balfour stated in his famous letter the pledge to give to the Hebrews, without a justifying cause, a National Jewish Home in Palestine. And it was precisely from this day on, November second 1917, that bloodshed and violence have occurred daily in the Holy Land, formerly happy."

During September, 1947 a delegation of the Arab States for Palestine came here, on a tour of Chile and other countries in South and Central America. The meetings and visits made by the members of this official delegation, not only in Buenos Aires, but also in the more important cities of the interior, were amply commented by the whole Argentine press. Their visits to the headquarters of the provincial papers got very wide and laudatory comment ("Los Andes", Mendoza, November 21, 1947; "El Diario", September 27, 1947; "Ultimas Noticias", Mendoza, November 20, 1947; "La Fronda", October 7, 1947, etc.).

In many of these visits to the newspapers and in public meetings, the Arab delegates were introduced by Ibrahim H. Hallar. The same thing occurred during the lectures given while on visit here by Dr. Mahmoud Azmi Bey, member of the Arab League and vice-chairman of the press subcommittee of the UN (1947).-

We record all this material because Ibrahim Hallar again became notorious, and more assiduously so, since the start of the conflict about the nationalization of the Suez Canal. In November 1956 a pamphlet, signed by Ibrahim Hallar was published, and distributed in the whole country. It was particularly amply displayed in Mendoza. This pamphlet is full of diatribes against the Western powers and Israel, extolling Nasser and his political position in the Middle East. Hallar was also interviewed severally in journals and weeklies of political character, in which he was introduced as the "well known journalist". We can get a good idea of the above mentioned pamphlet in the summary of its concluding part:

"There is no persecution of the Jews, and there never was, on the part of the Arab peoples. All have their due place, without racial or religious discrimination. Zionists have no admission. The State of Israel is artificial; it lives thanks to the Zionist aid from the whole world. The Zionists do not consider themselves citizens of the country in which they were born, and claim to be citizens of Israel. Therefore Israel constitutes a source of disturbances; it breaks the unity of the Arab countries and forms a center which responds to Imperialism. The proof is

at hand in the latest aggression in connivance with France and Great Britain".-

In December 1946 a meeting took place in the Syrian-Lebanese club "Honor y Patria" on occasion of a new anniversary of Mohamed's birthday, and one of the speakers was Moisés J. Azize. As special honour guest to the dinner organized on the occasion, figured the former Director of the Migrations Office, Dr. Santiago M. Peralta, and one of the speakers was Hector F. Miri, who is also author of a booklet published after the Sinai action, in which he refers to the struggle for oil and the Suez Canal.

We again find Elías Richa's name in other events: during a memorial tribute to the Emir Emin Arslan, when he spoke on behalf of the Central Arab Committee for Aid to Palestine; and on occasion of a farewell meeting for Captain Mansour Lahoud, aide de camp to the President of the Lebanese Republic, February 8, 1946, when Mr. Richa was chairman of the Asociación Patriótica Libanesa.

In a clipping from the Diario Sirio-Libanes of May 20, 1948, we read: "On the 23d of this month a solemn mass will be officiated in the Greek-Catholic Church of San Jorge, in Córdoba, to pray for the triumph of the just and noble cause of the Arab people, which fights in these moments in the holy land of our fathers, and for the glory and eternal rest of the fallen in defense of the rights of the holy Arab cause. The very reverends fathers Máximos Chalhub and Atanasio Farah, in patriotic manner and with divine inspiration, will officiate said mass. We invite, thus, all Arabs and friends of the cause, to pray united and with holy fervour, asking of the Almighty the triumph of right and justice, with which our brethren shed their blood there, far away but near to our hearts: the Land of the Arabs".-

It should be remembered that this is about the days when the Arab armies invaded the new-born State of Israel. Recently, on July 30, 1957, the name of the rev. Atanasio Farah appeared again, when the newspaper "La Capital", of Rosario, published a slanderous article against the Jews and Israel, under the title "What happens in Israel?". It was about the persecution of the minorities and of the Arabs, the desecration of the holy places, etc.. The same paper was forced to publish later, under the impact of energetical protests sent to it, an article in response to Farah's, signed by a well known Jewish leader of Rosario, Dr. Belfer. The Arab Maronite priest Atanasio Farah does not seem to enjoy great prestige in Rosarian circles. His record is not relevant.-

In this report we have fleetingly mentioned several institutions which occasionally reached wide resonance in the public opinion with their propaganda. For instance: the Syrian-Lebanese club, Honor y Patria, the Central Arab Committee for Aid to Palestine, the Official Delegation of the Arab States in favour of Palestine, the Lebanese Patriotic Association, etc.. We must add to them the Arab Executive Committee pro Defense of Palestine, of short existence, but which, in November 1947, called in the Homs Club, Melo Street 1902, "an assembly to consider the best way to coordinate the activities of all the Arabs in defense of Palestine." An enormous task was also performed by the so called Permanent Committee of the First Panarabic Congress in America, of whose activities there is a record for the year 1946. In May of that year it issued a statement, introducing itself as "identified with the Arab League of Cairo", saying, inter alia, that "Palestine pertains integrally to its people", and rejecting the United States' recommendations "for the entry of one hundred thousand European citizens of Hebrew religion to Palestine, a proposal which violates the principles invoked". - On June 27 of the same year, "La Prensa" publishes a statement of this body "which groups the most representative institutions of those nationalities in our country and in the whole South American continent", in which it extolls the personality of Hadj Amin El Husseini, Grand Mufti of Palestine "in order to clear up certain confusions referring to his activities". -

In August 1946, the Panarabic Congress again protests against the Jewish immigration to Zion, assigning it "financial purposes of dire consequences for the Arabs of Palestine", criticizes the Zionist Statehood concept, "considers forfeited the British mandate over Palestine and considers that the problem is not Jewish, neither Zionist, but merely Arab."

In October of the same year, it sends a extensive note to the national members of parliament, against a bill presented by several deputies with regard to the Palestine question, and in favour of the establishment of a Jewish National Home in the Holy Land. It says, inter alia: "The problem of Palestine must not be elucidated on American soil, since neither could there be conceived a similar case in the parliaments of foreign countries treating a bill tending to establish on American soil a fatherland for dispersed Jews." It requests a thorough study of the matter, starting from the point of view of the self-determination theory, which Argentina has always maintained". -

Several weeks later, on occasion of the visit to our country of the British labourist leader Lord Strabolgi, this

Panarabic Congress makes a new public statement refuting certain assertions made by Strabolgi; again it supports the Great Mufti's struggle.-

With regard to the activities of the Central Arab Committee for Aid to Palestine, they were particularly intense during the year 1948.- It published advertisements like this one: "An appeal to human solidarity. 400,000 persons displaced from their land and their homes in Palestine, wait for help. CONTRIBUTE WITH YOUR AID, to mitigate the indigence of so many thousands of children, old people, women and men who suffer from hunger and untold misery. Send your contribution to the Central Arab Committee for Aid to Palestine, Junin Street 1462."

To express their abhorrence for the assassination of the United Nations' mediator, Count Folke Bernadotte, the Central Arab Committee for Aid to Palestine made on the 20th September 1948 a statement on behalf of the members of this community residing in Argentina.

It also published a series of more than 10 pamphlets, under the imprint of "Bulletin of the Central Arab Committee for Aid to Palestine", some of whose titles are: "The Voice of Lebanon in the UN", "Democracy and the case of Palestine", "The Black Book on the Jewish Agency and terrorism."

Various Arab elements led newspapers and journals in the provinces, among them Negib R. Lahoud, who was editor of "El Chajá", of Formosa, a position he exploited to publish articles like "The tragedy of Palestine", on May 8th, 1948.-

The Arabs had in that period also the benefit of non-Arab papers, of nazi tendency and anti-Semitic, like "La Fronda", which published articles about "The longings of the Arab world," on October 8, 1947. In it the official Arab delegates who visited our country are greeted, and concludes: "We sincerely believe that the Jewish cause fares badly, somewhat similar to that of the Spanish Republicans in exile. Only God can help both of them, in his endless mercy. But, since the Jews are implacable enemies of God..."

We hope that with the above examples we have given a picture of the scope and the effectiveness, the organization of the Arab propaganda campaigns during the years 1946 till 1950, and of the activities deployed by some Arab elements or institutions in our country.-

CHAPTER V

THE ARAB LEAGUE IN ARGENTINA.

The Arab League is not officially recognized by Argentina, and therefore it cannot appear as openly as it would like. We don't think that its existence and its true importance and world ramifications are known by many inhabitants of our country. Those who know about it, do so from news agencies' reports published in the press. Furthermore, the mouthpieces of the Jewish community have done much to stress, at the given time, the negative character of this Arab League, its connections with Hitlerism, with Franco, and lately, with the neo-nazi elements. It was after 1945, until sometime after the defeat of the Arab armies in their aggressive war against Israel, when the name of the Arab League appeared more assiduously in the Argentine press. It must be emphasized that during those years there appeared papers like "Tribuna" and "Pampero" of nazi-fascist orientation, which willingly gave much publicity to the activities of the Arab League, in an attempt to give it prestige. Fortunately, papers of this type do not appear presently here. We only mention the German neo-nazi monthly "DER WEG", whose political tendency leads it to support organisms like the Arab League, which oppose Israel and Jewry. The daily "Freie Presse", read by a good part of the German community in our country, publishes with suggestive frequency information supplied by the Arab League, and generally its information on the Middle East comes from Arab sources. - Generally speaking, however, we may say that during the last years the Arab League is much less mentioned in Argentina. -

It is worthwhile mentioning that under Perón's government, Mr. Mohamed Abdel Khalek Hassouna, then general secretary of the Arab League was invited to visit Argentina. According to "La Nación" in its issue of May 28, 1954, in a cable of Reuter's "the invitation was made by the Argentine ambassador in Cairo, Dr. Carlos Gustavo Lerena, on behalf of his government! -

We understand that this visit never took place, for various reasons, but we know (see, e.g., the article by Victor Almagro published in the peronist daily "Democracia" on July 3d, 1954) that, around that time, the Peronist movement considered the Arab League an element capable of "creating the conditions for the establishment of a great Arab nation", an idea with which it sympathized. The current opinion here during that period could well be summarized by expressing that the Arab League, and particularly its main axis, Egypt "is the Prussia or the Piedmont of the future Confederation. According to its historical tradition, Great Britain tries to prevent, through

intrigue and manuevers of its satelltytes in the Middle East the Arab aspiration to constitute a nation.The civilizers close the road to those becoming civilized."

The Arab League,as said before,is not officially recognized by Argentina. This does not mean,however,that it does not deploy great activity.On the contrary,under the disguise of other names, or by fronting through other Arab or Argentine bodies,it is intensely active.Its representative until lately was Issa Nakhle, who,inter alia,published under his editorship the journal "America y Oriente",starting from November 20,1952,until he left the country in 1956. "AMERICA Y ORIENTE" was a very efficient arm of the Arab propaganda, and reached wide circulation among the leading Teronist circles,antisemitic nationalist groups,nazi elements and university circles.On the other it is apparent now that Issa Nakhle was the factotum of said journal, and since he left the country,it stopped publication and it seems that at the moment there are no people capable to continue the work.Many other means are being used,in the meantime.-

In that journal,besides the glorification of Naguib and later of Nasser, and of other Arab rulers,great space was devoted to falsifying grossly the real situation in the Middle East, and to infamous slanders against Israel,among them chiefly the item that "the Jews desecrate the holy places of Jerusalem",that they persecute other faiths,particularly the catholics. One of its objectives was to incite the hate against the Jews of our own country. Furthermore,by establishing an identity of ideals between the Arab countries and Latin-America,based on pretended common longings of "liberation from the imperialist yoke and the flowering of the nationalist movements for freedom and progress",the journal suggested the establishment of a block of Latin-American countries in support of the Afro-asian demands, and particularly in support of the Arab demands. At the same time, and from the start,"AMERICA y ORIENTE" attcked the Jews. In an article called "The Arab League and Bonn",it criticized the decision of the Bonn government to the amount of 715 million dollars to the Jews as reparations, echoing the Arab League's protest before Bonn against that decision. It referred very often to the problem of the Arab refugees of Palestine. It went so far as to praise openly the criminal and terrorist action of the "Fedayeen",counting some of their "prowesses".-

The virulence and the deleterious effects of the propaganda campaign managed by "America y Oriente",caused the DAIA to present on July 23,1954,an ample memorandum to the Minister of the Interior, in which it was said that "It has become a custom with Arab publications appearing in Argentina to attack regularly and systemati-

-cally the Jews living in this country, to whom is thus made extensive the hate against Israel in the Middle East." Previously, on December 2nd, 1953, in a note addressed to the same ministry, DAIA had drawn the attention to the anti-Jewish campaign of "El Diario Sirio-Libanes".-

In order to furnish a more precise idea about the danger involved in our country by Issa Nakhle's action, we may add the fact that the Israeli ambassador felt compelled to make a presentation before the Ministry for Foreign Affairs by the end of 1956, in which he draw the attention "to the activities of an organism called "Delegation of the League of Arab States" and of its head, Mr. Issa Nakhle, stressing that by a campaign of instigation to racial and religious hate an attempt is being made to create in the public opinion a feeling contrary to the friendly relations between Argentina and Israel. This poisonous agitation, carried out through the despatch of letters and pamphlets profusely distributed in the streets, propagates vicious slander, appealing to the most primitive instincts and attempts to convince the public of the existence of a "world Jewish plot whose objective is to throw out Christianity from the holy places in Palestine". This propaganda was a direct outgrowth of the one carried out in nazi Germany.

The presentation also stressed the fact that the person responsible for said campaign pretended to invest diplomatic character and was supposed to carry out a mission of the Syrian government before the Argentine government.- Issa Nakhle had started his activity in Buenos Aires several years earlier as Press Attaché to the Egyptian Embassy; later he was the founder and editor of the journal "América y Oriente", known for its systematical anti-Jewish campaign and its glorification of the totalitarian regimes, particularly of the nazi Germany. In August 1956 Issa Nakhle returned to Argentina, after a prolonged trip to the Soviet Union, this time in his character of head of the "Delegation of the League of Arab States", armed with a diplomatic passport as plenipotentiary minister of the Syrian government. This status created the mistaken impression that the formerly egyptian "diplomat" and present Syrian "diplomat" was exercising his activity with the Argentine government's consent.-

Issa Nakhle, main promoter of the Arab propaganda campaigns has been succeeded by Nazih Hakim, who came to this country in June 1957 and thenceforth deploys an intensive action, within the line established by his predecessor. He publishes pamphlets, inspires statements signed by institutions which seem to exist or revive only when there has to be signed some advertisement or statement, and gives lectures.- Lately he has carried out a series of visits to the more important Arab communities in the provinces.

In these meetings propaganda films are displayed. He has attempted to have these documentals shown in commercial movie houses, up to now to no avail. He had planned for March last a great meeting in the city of Mendoza, with the cooperation of the Cuyo University. He sends petitions and protests to various embassies. From his office have started various actions, particularly related to the problems of Algeria and Tunis. He tries to establish offices of the Arab League in other Latin-American countries. He is also endeavouring to attract to the Arab cause Argentine personalities. Nazih Hakim figures as Press councillor to the Syrian embassy in our country.

The facts ennumerated in this chapter go to show that the office currently headed by Nazih Hakim and formerly by Issa Nakhle, jointly with the three Arab diplomatic missions accredited before our government, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon, are the main sources of inspiration and execution of that action and of the anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish propaganda, as these do not emerge spontaneously from the local Arab community.-

CHAPTER VI

THE ARAB AGITATION DURING THE SUEZ CANAL CONFLICT.

It is easy to show how from certain events in the Arab world outside Argentina (the nationalization policy of the Iranian oil by Mossadegh, the emergence of a nationalist movement headed by Colonel Naguib ~~and~~ the continuance of that policy by Nasser, which reached its highest point with the nationalization of the Suez Canal), it is more and more obvious how the Arab agitation and propaganda is at work in our country. We record particularly the influence wielded by the journal "América y Oriente". But this propaganda is also a product of a greater agitation in the own Arab ranks. In some - though few - the Arab nationalist feeling is strengthened by the events mentioned; in others - the majority - a feeling of solidarity with the fate of the Arabs overseas is gaining weight. Such is the case with the third-generation descendants from Arabs, which were completely assimilated to the Argentine way of life and which did not feel any connection with things Arab, and who, suddenly, take cognizance of the blood ties and parentship, relating them, even indirectly with those who offer them the occasion to feel proud of being the center of attention of the world in certain moments.

Institutionally, we observe that a few months before the Operation Sinai, by mid-1956, the Syrian Lebanese club "Honor y Patria" merges with the Patronato Sirio Libanés, under the new name of "Club Honor y Patria, Unión de Pueblos Arabes Americanos". It may be noted that while the club Honor y Patria does not appear so mixed during its prolonged and prestigious existence with anti-Zionist, anti-Israeli or anti-Jewish actions (we have never seen any pamphlet or statement of that character bearing its signature or solidarity expression), the kind of activities assigned to it or which it had discharged by its own initiative, have served to create for the Arab causes the good will of wide circles in our country, as it was always a custom of that body to offer hommages to high official authorities, ministers, director of the Migration Office, writers, journalists and diverse Argentine personalities. Its weekly dinners, in which the guests of honour were Argentine figures of certain standing, have become a tradition,

In May 1956 it was announced that a committee headed by Dr. Guillermo Obeid had carried out a census of professional people of Arab descent, "in which all professionals contributing to the elevation of the cultural level of the country have been grouped according to their field, and which, though not complete, as it is pointed out, efficiently goes to show the contribution made by Arab descendants to enrich the cultural heritage of Argentina". Said body was presided by Engineer Cirilo Nassif.

On June 7th, 1956, the Club Honor y Patria, Union de Pueblos Arabes Americanos started its public activities, after the merger of the above mentioned organizations. It tendered on that occasion a reception to the representatives of the metropolitan press and news agencies, coinciding with the Wday of the journalist".-

On other occasions hommages were offered to institutions or newspapers, e.g. the one given on January 1947 to the daily "La Nación", on occasion of its 77th anniversary.

We mentioned in another section that there exist Arab institutions which appear, die and revive, according to need. Thus, many of them are nothing more than rubberstamps, to which body and soul is given when it seems opportune that somebody sign some manifesto or statement. One of these is the Federation of Arab Bodies in the Argentine Republic, which on August 15, 1956 issued a communiqué as result of the events triggered by the Suez Canal nationalization, in which it informs that "it was decided to paralyze tomorrow all its activities, as an expression of protest". In solidarity with that resolution, shops pertaining to members of the Arab community did not open their doors during

that day, i.e. August 16.- Currently such Federation is unknown, though it is well known that great efforts have been made and are being made in order to resolve the establishment of a body analogous to DAIA.-

A press report says that on August 19, 1956, a meeting was held in the Regio movie house, Córdoba Avenue 6058, called by the Association for Arab Culture in the Argentine Republic. Its object was to consult opinions with respect to the organization of the Argentine-Arab and Arab-Latin-American Congress for peace and freedom. Speakers were the founder of the organizing body, Mr. Miguel Cosma, the Syrian ambassador, Dr. Farid Zamaria, Mrs. Lillian O'Connell on behalf of the Argentine women; the military attaché to the Egyptian embassy, General Hassen Fahmy Ismail; Luis A. Consiglia, socialist, Cipriano Reyes, labourist and the Egyptian ambassador, Dr. Mahmud M. Hammad.

A few days before a meeting was celebrated in the Homs Club, to render tribute to the Egyptian Republic and to Nasser, organized by the Association for Arab Culture. As specially invited guest attended the chairman of the national committee of the Labourist Party, Cipriano Reyes.

A meeting of greater interest was held in the Astral Theater on September 17, 1956, under the name of "Second meeting of the Argentine- Arab - Latin-American Congress for Solidarity, Peace and Freedom". Not many people attended that meeting. Among others attended the ambassadors of Syria and Egypt and the delegation of the Algerian Front for Liberation. Mr. Angel Orfali said that "The Arabs express their hearty solidarity with the government of the Liberating Revolution". Other speakers were the former member of parliament and leader of the Union Cívica Radical Intransigente, Dr. Luis R. Mac Kay, currently minister for education and justice in the constitutional government of Dr. Frondizi and who recently was a member of the committee auspiciating the celebration of Israel's tenth anniversary, the delegate of the Algerian Liberation Front, Hussein Triki, the general secretary of the Labourist Party, Pío Montserrat, José Jalil of the Argentine-Arab Club, Luis Sansinetti, of the Youth Movement Intransigencia y Renovación of the Unión Cívica Radical, Aly Hasad, of the Arab-Argentine Youth Committee, Jorge García Dominguez, member of the editorial staff of the journal "Palabra Radical", and Américo Parrondo, socialist.-

It is worthwhile to emphasize that Mr. Pío Montserrat held on that occasion a virulently anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic speech, after which Dr. Musri felt compelled to state that the

"fight is not against the Jew, but against the Zionist and the State of Israel, an illegal and artificial state. Everlasting, according to them. But time will tell if that is true...". For his part, José Jalil spoke in a menacing tone, of which the following sentences of his speech are an example: "For the time being, they may attack, but the day is not far off when the Egyptian flag will flutter in Tel Aviv". "Not even the mass that Monseñor Francheschi is devoting them will save them".-

With the nationalization of the Suez Canal, no anti-Jewish articles were published, generally, but only pro-Egyptian ones, or those who maintained an expectant attitude. There were some exceptions, however, like the pro-Arab and anti-Israeli comments published by the daily "El Plata" of La Plata, by mid -1956. Nonetheless, the same paper published on November 29, 1957 a laudatory note on Israel, on occasion of the 10th anniversary of the UN Declaration.-

On September 23d, 1956, the Arab community of Borisso organized a meeting of solidarity with Egypt in its Suez Canal crisis, in the Progreso Theater, patronized by the Association of the Alauite Syrian Islamic Youth, the Association of the Hamelite Islamic Youth and the Arab Argentine Home Association. It was organized by the members of the Afro-Asian Latin-American Congress, and speakers were members of the Labourist Party and of the patronizing bodies.-

Later a dinner was served in honour of the general secretary of the national committee of the Labourist Party, Mr. Pío Montserrat, and of other personalities of that party.

It is to be noted that the daily "El Laborista" pertained in that epoch precisely to the party of the same name, and, therefore, it devoted much space and illustrations to the meetings and statements of the Arabs. That newspaper does not appear any more.

During September and October 1956 there were active preparations for the Arab Latin-American Congress. In a meeting held in the Lebanese House, Mr. Miguel Cosma, chairman of the organizing committee stated the purpose and scope of the Congress "to which will be invited representatives of all the countries interested, and which will implement the following points of the declaration of principles: 1º) To impose the teaching of Spanish language in the universities of the Arab countries, and of the Arab language in the universities of the Latin-American countries; 2º) that the nations of Latin America support the Arab peoples in their struggle for sovereignty, already

achieved, or in the process of being reconquered in the case of those who have not yet succeeded in doing so, and that the Arab States support the Latin-Americans in their just demands; 3º) That the Latin-American and Arab states collaborate in a joint action in the international field and promote the establishment of a block of Latin-American - Afro-Asian nations, to secure and consolidate peace, freedom and justice in the world".-

This congress did not materialize up to now.

In the meanwhile various books and pamphlets were edited to explain the significance of the Suez Canal and the Middle East situation, some inspired by Arab sources and others published by the initiative of their authors or by student centers, as e.g. the one published by the Reformist University Movement of the Laws and Economic Sciences School centers. Its subject matter was oil in the Middle East, and it did not contain any anti-Semitic or anti-Israeli sentence.

In some students' circles and in several faculties study seminaries, debates, round tables were organized, to consider topics like "The legitimacy of the nationalization by Egypt of the Suez Canal". Most of them became meetings of solidarity with the Arab cause, and took up the banners of anti-colonialism and anti-imperialism.

In a great meeting which took place in the School of Medicine, in another in the Economic School, and in a meeting organized in the Law and Social Sciences School, all in Buenos Aires, it became evident that for the students to express solidarity with the Arab cause did not mean hostility against Israel, excepting the definitely communist students and those stiffly nationalistic, who displayed in their expressions elements of anti-Israeli incitation.-

CHAPTER VII

THE ARAB ACTION IN ARGENTINA CAUSED BY THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS BY THE END OF 1956. (Operation Sinai and Anglo-French intervention in the Suez Canal.)

The events of the last part of 1956 in the Middle East shocked world public opinion and had ample echo here in the Arab and nazi-fascist circles, who exploit every occasion to vent their anti-Jewish feelings, using in every situation different tactics.

No wonder then that these elements, who try to expose the Jews either as allies of communism, or as instruments of imperialism and defenders of colonialism, according to circumstantial convenience, should use in that emergency the most absurd and injurious arguments and slogans.

In October there were anti-Jewish street demonstrations in Buenos Aires and in provincial towns, passing to tar-bombing of community centers, wall painting offensive legends, distribution of pamphlets or the publication of hostile statements in newspapers of the interior, and other forms of promoting a climate of hostility and unrest. This slander campaign against our community was simultaneously directed against Israel, the real target of these attacks.-

It should be remembered that when these events in the Middle East took place, only somewhat more than one year had passed since the defeat of dictatorship by the Liberating Revolution. In the heat of recovered freedom, of the exercise of press and speech liberties, our traditional enemies, the nazis, anti-Semites, etc, exploited these favourable circumstances trying to sow hate against the Jews. They did not lose this occasion to intensify their joint work with the Arab nationalistic elements, harping on the deepseated anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist feelings of the great part of the Argentine people. We are able to indicate plain facts which happened after October 1956, to substantiate our assertions, and below we shall quote a few examples.-

Editors of newspapers and journals received anonymously mimeographed material, reproducing an article published in the American journal "Time" of November 12, 1956, headed "THE PLGT". "How France, Great Britain and Israel reached agreement."

Also the "White Book on the nationalization of the Maritime Company of the Suez Canal", published by the Egyptian government on August 12, 1956, was made known in Buenos Aires.-

Many persons, particularly journalists, received various materials in English and French, published mostly in the United States. Italian language material was published in Rome and Cairo.-

Before that campaign, a pamphlet in English was distributed, apparently by the Arab embassies, under the title "Israel's aggression at Gaza", February 28, 1955. This pamphlet contained exclusively truculent pictures about pretended actions of vandalism committed by the Israelis in Gaza. Terrifying scenes

of pillage, rape, destruction, torture and other horrors are depicted. Because of its language - the pamphlet obviously appeared in the USA - it did not reach many readers.-

Signed by Pedro Catella, a booklet titled "The Suez Canal crisis", "political-legal antecedents, with the text of the 1888 Convention", appeared. It does not contain anti-Israeli assertions.

On the other hand, by the end of December 1956 a small pamphlet appeared, reproducing the lecture held by Dr. Victor Augusto Alcorta in the Labour Culture Institute, 282, L.N. Alem Street, on September 7th. It carried an appendix written on December 4, with the following sentence: "Ben Gurion, the Jewish Hitler, stabs in the back and invades Egypt in the precise moment when the Anglo-French aggression vomits torrents of destruction, fire and death over Cairo".-

In the city of Córdoba we encounter a very active "Argentine - Arab Committee for Aid to the Arab peoples", which has two communiques published in the local press and edits a pamphlet profusely distributed from door to door. Its content does not refer specifically to the armed conflict, but it denies the right of existence to the Jewish State. The committee convoked to lectures and had other collaborations written by trotskyite elements, like Alfredo Terzaga, and procommunists, like Lucio Garzón Maceda. It organized a poster contest on the following themes: The Arabs want national independence and full self-determination; The civilian populations bombed (The aggression against Egypt); This is no civilizing action! (The case of Kenya, Algeria, Cyprus and Egypt) and One million persons robbed of their land and possessions (The case of the Arab population of Palestine, expelled by the Israelis in 1948, who presently live in the Gaza zone, in Jordan and in other Arab countries).-

This committee organized lectures in its headquarters, to which members of the Arab circles only attended. This happened during the months October, November and December 1956.

By mid 1957 a sharply nationalistic, anti-Semitic and Peronist lampoon-paper appeared in the city of Tucumán, called "Ya", distributed also in Mendoza, which carried a column headed "Arab World". This column was devoted to brutal attacks against the State of Israel, whose liquidation was advocated. It praised the Arab States and Colonel Nasser. The Arab community in Mendoza is quite strong and well organized, which explains how after the Sinai Operation it carried out an intensive propaganda campaign based on pamphlets like the one titled "Israel is an imperialist vanguard in the midst of the Arab countries". In November 1956 a pamphlet signed by Ibrahim H. Hallar was published, in which the author says, summa-

rizing :"There never has been and there is no anti-Jewish persecution on the part of the Arab peoples. Everybody has his place, without religious or racial discrimination. Zionists have no admission. The State of Israel is artificial; it lives thanks to the Zionist help from all parts of the world. The Zionists don't consider themselves citizens of the country in which they were born and claim to be citizens of Israel. Therefore Israel is a source of trouble, it breaks the unity of the Arab countries and forms a center which responds to imperialism. The proof can be found in the latest aggression in connivance with France and Great Britain."

The statements and articles published by the radical intransigent leader Dr.Raúl L.Uranga had ample echo in Paraná. They appeared in the paper "El Diario" of that city and praised the Arab authorities; they were written on return from a trip to the Middle East, made on Nasser's invitation.

In this respect we must stress that Dr.Raúl L.Uranga, who was elected in the last national elections on February 23d governor of Entre Ríos Province, on the Union Cívica Radical Intransigente ticket, as well as Dr.Luis R.Mac Kay, elected member of parliament for Entre Ríos Province , on the same ticket, and presently education and justice minister in the national cabinet, both of whom had taken part in some pro-Arab meetings, formulated lately several statements to make clear their opinion, to the effect that their definitely anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist positions do not conflict with a deep admiration for Israel and for the Jews. Thus, for instance, Dr.Uranga expressed ("Amanecer", November 23d, 1957) that "the establishment of the State of Israel constitutes one of the most important events of the century."

"I believe that it is necessary to have soon a final peace treaty, complete and cordial, between Arabs and Jews, and to abolish soon the armistice of 1949."

In Rosario great commotion was caused by an article published in "La Capital" by the Arab Maronite Priest Atanasio Farah, under the heading "What goes on in Israel?"

In the paper "El Intransigente" of Salta an advertisement was published, injurious for Israel and the Jews, signed by the local Arab Associations.-

In Jujuy the Syrian-Lebanese Youth of Oran was actively mobilized, exploiting the commotion caused by the Middle East events.

In the meantime, the Rotary Club of Cairo had sent various sections of the Rotary Club in our country extensive material with its "version of history and its points of view regarding the important problems of the Middle East". An illustrative extract is given below on its version of the problem:

"For the population of the Middle East, the new State of Israel is a foreign body in its organism. It can grow, it must grow, in order to exist. It cannot live within its present limits and must expand to survive. The consequence of this situation is tension and arms". Other similar sentences follow, then it deals on the nationalization of the Suez Canal. In the letter signed by the honorary secretary Niazi I. Mostafá, it was suggested "that for the program of the world week of camaraderie, this material shall be circulated, read and discussed in your club". - Some rotarians reacted violently against this sample of partiality in a political question, and so it came about that the request of the Cairo Rotary Club was left unresolved.

EXCERPTS FROM THE ARGENTINE PRESS

On top of the agitation caused by the mere fact of the Suez Canal nationalization, came a enlightening campaign materialized by Egyptian, Syrian, etc. diplomats, and high Arab agents, even by some nazi elements quick to take advantage. Every time they referred to this central theme, they did not go by the occasion to include some offensive words for Israel, thus creating a speacial climate of revulsion towards the young State. Thus, on September 9th, 1956, a press conference took place in the press office of the Syrian embassy, Suipacha Street 513 (headquarter of the representative of the Arab League, Hakim). During this press conference the journalists were addressed by the Syrian ambassador, Nazih Kouzbary, and the press attaché, Nazih Hakim. Mention was made of the "artificial creation of the socalled State of Israel, which, to establish itself, had to usurp, aided by the imperialists, part of our land, leaving without homes or possessions nearly one million Arab refugees, Muslims and Christians, who heedlessly claim justice. This so-called State of Israel has broken the balance in the Middle East and has constituted itself in a real danger which we cannot ignore or do aside carelessly, since, with the persistent aid of Occident, it has created a military force perfectly armed and equipped, which on many occasions has carried out aggressions against our territories, and is ready to repeat them in any given moment,

as it does not hide its expansionist purposes".-

On October 26th, the press attaché to the Egyptian embassy, Mr. Ibrahim El Sokkary gave a lecture on "Brief history of the Suez Canal" in the great auditorium of the Law School of the La Plata University.

Thus prepared the ground, it was not much of a surprise that a newspaper like "Crítica", in which the Jewish questions generally are well received, should publish in its editorial of November 1st, 1956, i.e. on the second day of the Sinai Operation, sentences like: "We do not judge the motives that may have caused a war between Egypt and Israel, neither do we budge in this matter from a strict neutrality. This does not mean approval for the reigning system in Egypt, which, among us, is frankly repudiated by the democratic mentality. What we stress is the European aggression - Great Britain and France - against an African country - Egypt - after the pretext offered by the invading Israeli troops. The Argentines, who independently from the "casus belli" consider with equal respect and friendship Egyptians and Israelis, cannot call this but a wicked war of aggression".-

On November 2nd appeared the statement formulated to the press by the Israeli ambassador, Dr. A. L. Kubovy, to the effect that the facts did not contradict Israel's wish for peace; Israel had from its establishment looked for friendly relations with its neighbours. Somewhat later appeared the statement of the Egyptian ambassador, who on that same afternoon called a press conference to refute the Israeli ambassador's words.

Under the impact of the effervescence caused by warfare, several Arab bodies were created or reorganized, as for instance the "Argentine Arab Committee", founded in Córdoba one of whose members was the Syrian Cultural Association, with the basic objective of "collaborating and aiding in the defense of Egypt before the aggression". This committee was quite active in Córdoba and the local newspapers gave it a good measure of space for its reports.

A delegation of the Movement for Solidarity with Egypt, headed by the Lebanese writer Ibrahim Hallar, called on the editorship of "Crítica" in Buenos Aires, informing it on the manifestations outside the Arab embassies. It also formulated new statements, as a reply to Dr. Kubovy's expressions.

The newspapers of November 12 published statements by the press attaché of the Egyptian embassy, Abdel Kader Hafez,

who denied that there existed then any anti-Jewish discrimination in his country, quoting the testimony of "A Jewish Egyptian Lady", and later formulated various charges against Israel and the Zionists. He said, among other things: "The Zionists of Israel sacked churches and Christian institutions, demolished temples, monasteries and schools, mistreated and persecuted priests, monks and nuns".-

An interesting statement, within what could be expected those days was published by the Committee for International Affairs of the Christian Democratic Party. It said, among other things: "Israel enjoys every attribute entitling it to claim from its neighbours and other members of the international community the acknowledgment of its existence, but the Israeli attitude very seriously endangers the peace and security of the nations." At the same time it condemns the behaviour of the neighbouring Arab states, particularly Nasser's dictatorship, which during eight years have provoked, with their unjust policy and permanent aggressions of the military kind and of psychological pressure the explosion of this crisis. The party stresses the tremendous guilt in which the great powers are involved, by not exercising their visible influence to solve the problems created." Finally it appeals to the Provisional Government to take the initiative in suggesting means of international action which may definitely eliminate the causes of instability in the Middle East."

On the other hand, the newspaper "Orientación" of Córdoba, in its issue of December 1st, 1956, inserted a large document signed by the Argentine Arab Committee for Aid to the Arab peoples, in which, based on well known arguments, it refers "to the causes of conflict with Israel".-

On December 7th the creation of a Committee of Solidarity with the Arab countries and of protest against the aggression in Egypt was reported. This type of committees, commissions, movements, etc., multiplied during the months November and December 1956.-

The Argentine Arab Committee called on the same day its first public meeting in the Syrian-Lebanese Society of Córdoba. Speakers were Dr. Miguel Manzur, on "Impressions of a trip to the Near East" and Dr. Lucio Garzón Maceda, who lectured about "Egypt and the colonial peoples before the problem of national integration".

Dr. Hussein Monés, director of the Cultural Relations Department of the Education Ministry of Egypt spoke to journalists in the Egyptian embassy on December 12th. He had come "on a good will trip to various American nations". He stated the Egyptian position and attacked the policy of France, Great Britain and Israel.

Dr. Hussein Monés also lectured on "Egypt, today", in the Superior School for Journalism.

On December 14 a meeting took place in the head-quarter of the Syrian-Lebanese Society of Córdoba, under the auspices of the Argentine Arab Committee for Aid to the Arab peoples, and the main speaker was Dr. Alejandro Monteoliva, who developed the theme "The Arab world and the West", stressing the similarity between the present struggle of the Arabs and the one fought by the Argentine nation in the River Plate, during the last century, against the interventionist policy of the same imperialism."

The Argentine press amply reflected the visit made about those days by the ambassadors of Lebanon, Syria and Egypt to Rosario, together with a delegation headed by the writer and lecturer H. Yamati. The Egyptian ambassador received the journalists, "refuting some statements made by the Israeli ambassador". Later a meeting took place in the El Círculo Theater, speaking Messrs. Eliseo Fayad, chairman of the organizing committee, Dr. Mahmud Hammad, Egyptian ambassador, Fares Abdelmalek, of the Argentine Arab Committee, Julio Naput, Juan Yaser and Dr. Raúl L. Uranga.

On occasion of the declarations made by the Israeli ambassador on December 18, the newspaper "DEMOCRACIA" thought it appropriate to interview the Egyptian ambassador, and received an exclusive statement, published in striking manner.

We quote below some expressions of that interview, which illustrate very well the focal points of those days:

"...experience has taught us that every time Israel speaks of peace, it prepares a stab in the back.

With respect to the charges formulated against us of anti-Semitic persecution, they have been publicly denied, even by means of a telegram by Alfred Lilienthal to president Eisenhower. In my country - continued the ambassador - live 35,000 Egyptian Jews who cannot be expelled from the country, for the simple reason that they are Egyptian and not Zionists.

The racial hate which is overtaking Argentina is a product of the activities of the press office of the Argentine Zionist Council. In Buenos Aires bonds of the state of Israel are sold publicly to raise funds used later to buy arms for aggression."

The newspapers of December 24 reported the establishment in Buenos Aires of the Information Center of the Delegation of the League of Arab States for Latin-America.

It is interesting to note the peculiar tone given to the report by the official organ of the Communist Party, "Nuestra Palabra", under the enormous heading spread over four columns : "Rosario: Great anti-imperialist meeting", December 27:

"Rosario (C) - On December 19 an extraordinary meeting took place in the "El Círculo" Theater, organized by the Committee for Aid to Egypt and solidarity with the Arab peoples. More than 5,000 persons attended, and listened to Eliseo Fayad, of the organizing committee; Julio Naput, editor of "La Hora Arabe"; Dr. Mahmud Hammad, Egyptian ambassador in our country and to Dr. Raúl L. Uranga, chairman of the organizing committee and former national member of parliament for the Union Cívica Radical, who recently returned from a trip to Egypt. The speakers passed review to the history of the Egyptian movement for freedom and the anti-colonialist struggle of the Arab countries. The Egyptian ambassador energetically answered the imperialist slanders attempting to attack the commercial relations of his country with the Soviet Union. Dr. Uranga analyzed the infamous Anglo-French-Israeli attack; he was much applauded when he referred to the agrarian reform carried out in Egypt and to the imperative necessity to do likewise in our country; he also reported his interview with Colonel Nasser. Before closing the meeting, solidarity messages were read, among them the letter from the Movement for Democratization and Independence of the labour unions, whose sentences, representing the solidarity of the Argentine workers with the Arab workmen drew the applause of those present."

An artistic festival took place on January 4, organized by the Arab Argentine Alliance, whose benefit went to the victims in Egypt; attending were the ambassadors of the Arab countries, known artists and orchestral bands. Many institutions of other communities, particularly Greek and Armenian, expressed their solidarity.

On January 24th, 1957, the Egyptian ambassador called a new press conference, amply reported in the metropolitan papers. He again referred to the charge of anti-Jewish persecutions in Egypt, saying: "In Egypt we are not anti-Semitic. We have a Jewish community of at least 30,000 Egyptians, who live happily, identified with our nationality. The Arabs have always given a generous reception to the Jews, not only in times of the Spanish inquisition, but also after the European war."

During the months December and January Mr. Enrique Halabi Juri, general secretary of the Movement of Solidarity with Egypt, made a tour through the whole country, and in the main cities, like Córdoba, Mendoza, San Juan, etc., he lectured on the theme: "Ideals of the Arab peoples and of Indian America".-- Furthermore he made statements to the newspapers in every locality. He said, among other things, that "a group of persons met in Buenos Aires, on November 7, to create the Movement, from which emerged the present committee of nine members. The executive committee is composed of personalities of the Argentine letters, professionals, intellectuals, etc., and only one person of Arab nationality is included in that committee." The movement is non-political and has been constituted in order to aid morally and materially the Egyptian people, by means of supplying provisions, drugs, blood-plasma, etc., through the Argentine Red Cross. The moral help to the Egyptian cause is materialized by spreading by all the means in our power the cause of the Arab people, which currently is the cause of Egypt."

On January 5th, the Syrian ambassador, Dr. Nader El Kouzbari spoke over the National Broadcast Station greeting the Argentine people and government and the Arab residents, on occasion of the New Year.

Besides the newspapers chronicles, we wish to stress some significant facts, as for instance that on November 2nd, 1956, there took place in the center of the Syrian Lebanese Society of Santiago del Estero a meeting to consider the events in the Middle East. A provisional committee was named, composed of: Chairman, Nazim J. Jozani; Secretary, Dr. Amilcar L. Santucho; Treasurer, Carlos Nassif Neme; members, Dr. Francisco López Bustos, Eduardo Miguel and Dr. Abraham Abdulajab.

Mr. Eduardo Miguel, member of that committee, was recently elected governor of Santiago del Estero Province,

and is an outstanding leader of the Unión Cívica Radical Intransigente.

The above mentioned committee adopted several resolutions and published a statement condemning the Anglo-French aggression and "the unjustified attitude of the government of Israel, which has furthered the purposes of the imperialist Anglo-French groups". This statement was signed by more than one hundred persons, mostly Arabs.

On the other hand, the newspaper "El Liberal", also of Santiago del Estero, informed on "The solidarity of business of Rio Hondo Springs. On occasion of the meetings which took place in the capital in solidarity with the cause of Egypt, the Syrian-Lebanese business in this locality resolved to close their doors, in solidarity. Some Jewish businessmen also closed their shops."

No need stressing that these businessmen mentioned were "progressists". In this respect we must add that this solidarity with the Egyptian people, a position adopted by the "progressist" Jewish movement led many members of that sector to take part in manifestations implying criticism or condemnation of Israel.

LEAFLETS AND PAMPHLETS IN THE STREETS.

It was customary with the Arab elements to use the great popular concentrations (May 1st, day of the workmen, October 17, "Day of Loyalty", which the Peronist movement had established as national holiday, etc.) to spread among the masses leaflets injurious to Israel, and on these occasions the nazi and traditionally anti-Semitic elements used to add their own contribution of anti-Jewish poison. Starting from the events of October-November 1956, the Arab propaganda in the form of leaflets and pamphlets became much more intensive and sustained. The Arabs, who until then tried to make the point of distinguishing between "Jews" and "Zionists", attacking only Israel and Zionism, unleashed from then on their hate indiscriminately. Thus appears a leaflet headed "Let the Argentine public opinion judge", with the traditional caricature of a Jew, bearded, with hooked nose, round hat, etc., with a saint's aureole, fondling the dove of peace, whilst his "alter ego" triggers a machine-gun. The pamphlet is intended to "demonstrate" the falsehood

of pacific declarations of Israel, and to such end statements by Moshe Dayan, Ben Gurion, member of parliament Jacob Meridor, Menachem Begin, V. Jabotinsky et alii are quoted, purporting to prove the warlike and expansionist intentions of Zionism. In conclusion it quotes "a prophecy by Benjamin Franklin regarding the Jewish race", in which he appears opposed to Jewish immigration to the United States, since "they would endanger our institution". The leaflet is signed by "The Arabs and their descendants". Of like origin and signature other pamphlets appeared. One of them is titled "Argentine hospitality violated by international Zionism" and criticizes the "suspicious visits by Zionist officers and diplomats", who arrived to this country "to intensify their attacks against the Arab countries", to spread "mutterings about a sui-generis state" and "fill their bags with the money raised in Argentina in the socalled United Israel Appeal, by means of bonds sales to buy arms and maintain their aggressive purpose". Then a "small list of atrocities", committed by Israel from 1946 until November 1956 is presented. Another leaflet spread by the "Arabs and their descendants", called "Peace, Peace, Peace! A year ago..." remembers the meeting "For Peace" held by the Jewish community on October 28, 1956 and the fact that, on the following day, Israel "confabulated with imperialism, cowardly invaded Egyptian territory, sowing arson, plunder, rape and sadism!" It then ridicules the Argentine personalities and political leaders who participated in that meeting and in many others on behalf of Israel, to whom it suggests to "leave aside the very suggestive sermons and eulogies to a fictitious state, which has made a cult of murder, deceit and treachery".

In Córdoba the Argentine Arab Committee for Aid to the Arab peoples published in November 1956 a booklet in which the organizations of the Arab speaking community of that city and said committee appeal to public opinion "so that the people may know the real causes of the conflict between Arabs and Israel" and express that they "do so, primordially, on behalf of the tradition of freedom and justice of the Argentine nationality, of which they are proud. They have, unlike the Zionists, neither two flags nor nationality with double entry".-

A series of leaflets and pamphlets were spread in the streets without any signature, but their Arab origin may be clearly inferred. One of them, published on November 3,

headed "Argentine people, don't let yourself be deceived!" advises: "you must not believe the partial propaganda spread worldwise by the news agencies, all of them of Jewish capital". "Nasser is no dictator! He is a patriot and a leader of the Arab youth. We must not forget and be grateful, for the Arab countries were the only ones that voted in favour of an Argentine president of the UN, an election that was sabotaged by the Jews".-

Below we find some significant passages from several leaflets:

"Warning to the Christians: The Jews of Palestine plan the occupation of the remainder of Palestine and the blotting out of Christianity from the Holy Land. Christianity and the Christian Holy Places are in danger".

"Mr. Alfredo L. Palacios: it is doubly painful for us to know you are sold out, today, to the dirtiest international capital (Judaism)"; "The case of Palestine: irony of the right of the stronger one"; "Zionism is expansion; think: 49 million Jews spread in the world cannot have room in 12,000 square kilometers". "Arab refugees. In what codex drank their doctrine the band of legalists who fabricated on request the sophisms conjugating the artificial STATE OF ISRAEL with the blood and the sufferings of millions of Arabs?"

"Mr. Alfredo L. Palacios: You are free to do as you like with your conscience, for which Judaism has found the price. But don't involve the people and the government with statements we don't authorize nor feel". "Jewish-French-British outrage. At the same time that on October 28, 1956, in the Ocean Theater, the Jews deceived prominent Argentines, inviting them to solidarize themselves with peace in the East, the Zionist war machine overran the defenseless frontiers of Egypt."

Besides the distribution in the streets of such and other leaflets, many Arab shops, particularly in the centers of Arab commercial concentration, displayed in their shopwindows and frontispieces inscriptions of sundry type, in which the Jews, Israel and the imperialist countries were attacked; they also affixed flaglets and pictures of the "Liberator Nasser".-

There were not many militant catholic elements to adopt a position openly contrary to Israel and Zionism. But even among the few, one stood out through the character of his smallscale campaign, carried out, apparently, on his personal behalf. Actually, Father Elias Andraos, who styles himself

"missionary of St.Paul", published in February 1957 two booklets: "Zionism against Christianity in Palestine" and "Christianity endangered in Israel". These papers, without indication of printing shop, contain statements in complete contradiction with testimonies proceeding from the highest and most authoritative catholic sources about the freedom and respect enjoyed by all religions in Israel. Pretending to be factual information, but naturally totally false, these booklets carried an obvious anti-Semitic purpose, tending to incite to hate and other dangerous unforeseeable reactions.

Shortly after this material was spread, it found, regrettably, its way into a Catholic daily, "El Pueblo", where, on April 26, 1957, an article by the same author, headed "Obstacles to Apostleship in Israel", appeared. The seriousness of it lies precisely in the fact that the article appeared in a Catholic organ of prestige. We shall quote several passages from said article, to show its intention and mischievous effects:

"...The Palestine problem is not a racial one, but if need be to speak of racism, it is rather to denounce to public opinion Zionist racial discrimination as it reigns virulently and fanatically in the State of Israel".

"... Well then, this is what currently happens in the State of Israel, where authorities and people, each in its respective spheres of activity exercise the most stringent, intransigent and fanatical racialism, compounded of hate, contempt, spirit of vengeance and eagerness, sometimes shamelessly confessed, to wipe out from the State of Israel even the traces of anything not Jewish, and in the first place, of anything Christian".

"...Instead of so much protesting against an imaginary anti-Semitism in Argentina, it would perhaps be better to advise the Zionists of Israel to start in their own kitchen and combat the lowly racialism which reigns in the novel state."

Months after the battles of Sinai and of the conflict for the possession of the Suez Canal, the activity of the Arab organizations continued to be very intensive. Thus, on September 16, 1957, a public meeting was organized in the Teatro Buenos Aires, by the Arab Culture Association in the Argentine Republic, a body patronized by the Arab Latin-American Congress. The reason for that Congress, according to press reports is "a close collaboration between the Latin-

American countries and the Afro-Asian Arabs". Speakers were: Miguel Cosma, chairman of the organizing committee; Abdelkader Hafey, press attaché to the Egyptian embassy; Alberto Ciria, secretary of the Laws Center of the Law and Economics School; Luis Sansinetti, of the Radical youth; Pío Montserrat, of the Labour party; Héctor Molinas; Mrs. Lillian O'Connell Alurralde, of the League of Argentine Women; Carlos Castilla and Carlos Alurralde. Each expressed his solidarity with the purposes and statements of the organizing body.

On November 4th a second preparatory public meeting of the Arab Latin-American Congress took place, in which "efforts were made on behalf of Algeria's freedom and independence and for a greater fraternizing between the peoples of Latin-America and the Arab world. Speakers were: Miguel Cosma, Carlos Castilla, pertaining to the students' center of the Law Schoool and member of the Christian Democratic Party; Pío Montserrat, secretary of the Labour Party, Eduardo A. Carelle and Raúl Puigbó, secretary of the Azul y Blanco Party.

As can be gathered, the activity deployed by the Arab organizations in Argentina during and after the events of October - November, 1956 in the Middle East, was very intensive in all fields, and did not direct itself to a specific sector of the population. It is proper to stress that the impact of the Arab propaganda had special repercussion on the thinking of certain Argentine intellectual circles, as a consequence of what they consider anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist policy. On the other hand we emphasize the fact that notwithstanding the diligence shown by the **Arab** elements and their moving force, the Arab League, to direct their fire against Israel, which they put on an equal level with France or England, or worse yet, these intellectual circles we mentioned above, the press and the Argentine public opinion in its majority, knew how to disentangle the Anglo-French action from the problem of the Arab - Israeli conflict, and in more than one opportunity they defended the just rights of Israel and its eagerness for peace and security.

CHAPTER VIII

WITH REGARD TO THE ANTI-JEWISH PERSECUTION IN EGYPT.

As will be remembered, after the critical period of battle in the Middle East, by the end of 1956 and the beginning of 1957, a wave of anti-Jewish persecution was unleashed in Egypt by order of Nasser's government. Its details are quite well known. We wish, notwithstanding, to stress that under the impression created by these facts, DAIA and other Jewish organizations in the country, started immediately an action of informing the public opinion and of solidarity with that faraway and persecuted community. The Egyptian authorities attempted to cover up the whole problem with a silence black-out, but in view of the determined action of the Jewish communities, tried to minimize the import of the discriminatory and persecutory steps. This, at least, was the attitude of the Egyptian diplomatic representative in Argentina.

In the meantime, the Arab Information and Press Center (i.e. the representative of the Arab League) published a pamphlet called "The truth about the Jews in Egypt", in which the Jewish charges were denounced as "slanders to distract public opinion from the horrors and atrocities committed and which continue being committed against the Arab population of Sinai and Gaza, and from the most inhuman and unheard of persecution and racial discrimination applied against 80,000 Christian and Muslim Arabs who had the misfortune to remain under Israeli régime after the unjust and illegal occupation of a great sector of Palestine, on the hands of the Jews, in 1948". "..... They try to hide their own blind religious intolerance and the fanatical manner in which they treat the Christian and Muslim religions, as well as the Catholic missions in Israel. They also try to hide before the world their barbarous desecrations of the Christian and Muslim Holy Places in Palestine". It includes also a statement by the Chief Rabbi of Egypt, "Zionist assertions refuted by impartial investigations and testimonies" and a "balance of the Arab and Jewish previous records".

In November 1957, the press attaché to the Egyptian embassy in our country stated before the metropolitan journalists that there was no persecution of Jews in Egypt. To

do so, in view of the lack of sufficient evidence in support of his assertion, he found nothing better than divert attention from this item, charging, on the other hand, that "Israel persecutes all religions", its minorities, which receive the worst possible treatment (among these minorities he included the Yemenite Jews). All this is no news for Arab propaganda. But what really was heard for the first time was his charge that the Jews in the United States and in South Africa favour negro discrimination. We stress again that all these countercharges were only a smoke barrage to withstand the intensive campaign of information undertaken by our community with regard to anti-Jewish persecution in Egypt. These events were widely commented.-

CHAPTER IX

ARAB INSTITUTIONS IN ARGENTINA

Before enumerating the Arab organizations in our country, we have to refer briefly to some of them in particular.

Many years before the electoral campaign for the national elections of July 28, 1957, a "Radical Atheneum of Descendants of Syrian-Lebanese people" was active here. It was presided by Pedro Yamuni. Members of that Atheneum constituted later, i.e. on the eve of elections a "Committee of Descendants from Syrian-Lebanese people pro Frondizi President". There is no record that on any time they should have made any statements regarding Jews, Israel or Zionism. We only stress that said Mr. Pedro Yamuni figured as director of the political weekly "Resistencia Popular" which supported Dr. Frondizi, during several weeks when the journal's editor in chief, Mr. Raúl Damonte Taborda was detained by the authorities. Now he figures as administrator of the above mentioned weekly.

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ASOCIACION CULTURAL SIRIA.

This is quasi-branch of the Great Syria Party (illegal), founded by the late leader Antón Zahade, known also as Parti Populaire, of fascist orientation. The Cultural Syrian Association was created in November 1954, being its president Mr. Julio Chaij. Its headquarters is in Virrey Melo Street, 2019. This institution acquired particular importance by

publishing an enormous advertisement in a couple of Argentine papers, in reply to the publication in the papers of a report brought by a telegraphic agency, titled "The price of Arab children has risen".-

This happened on the 11 and 20 October 1955. Under the pretext of denying the state of slavery in which - according to the news agency - Arab children were maintained in some countries of the Arab Orient, attacks out of any proportion were hurled against the Jews in Israel and against the Argentine Jewish community. This caused an ample refutation on the part of DAIA, and the Cultural Syrian Association attempted in the emergency to extend its anti-Jewish hate in the columns of the Argentine papers; this was already somewhat more difficult to do than in the first instance.

However, on January 26, 1956 the name of the Asociación Cultural Siria again appeared heading an advertisement which was published in only one edition of one newspaper, since the other dailies rejected plainly the publication of such libel. In it charges were made "about a serious contempt of principles of nationality and sovereignty committed in a meeting of solidarity with Israel", and all Argentine personalities, which in one way or another had expressed their positive feelings towards Israel were defamed.

After this there only appeared from time to time reports of cultural meetings held by that Association, like the one in November 1956, on occasion of a reception offered to the press, in which a copy of the Arab translation of "Martín Fierro", made by the Association's secretary, Yauad J. Nader, was presented.

Two years ago it was intended to create an institution similar to DAIA, under the name of Federation of Arab Bodies in the Argentine Republic, but it never materialized, though the project has not been given up.

Another institution which appears, dies and revives according to needs is the Arab Latin-American Culture Institute; practically, it does not exist as a body of permanent activity.-

The organism which carried out most meetings lately is the socalled Committee to Prepare the Arab Latin-American Congress, which arose in reply to the Latin-American Congress of Solidarity with Israel and for Peace in the Middle East. This organization, featuring as president Mr. Miguel Cosma, tries to establish and maintain bonds of friendship with the different Argentine political parties. It stands out for its agitation on behalf of the Algerian problem.

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DIVERSE INSTITUTIONS.

Club Honor y Patria (Syrian-Lebanese) - 855 Juncal Street.-
Lebanese House - 1462 Junin Street.-
Lebanese Patriotic Association - 1462 Junin Street.-
Druze Association - 665 Maipú Street.-
Magreb Liberation Committee (west) - Morocco, Algeria and Tunis.-
Homs Club - 1902 Melo Street.-
Panislamic Association - 826 Venezuela Street.-
Arab Alliance - 472 Homero Street.-
Islamic Solidarity - 453 Lamarca Street.-
Pan Allaouite Islamic Association - 805 Hidalgo Street.-
Allaouite Union - 3762 Concepción Arenal Street.-
The Allaouites come from the Southern part of Lebanon.-
Allaouite Youth - 153 Carlos Pellegrini Street.-
Tripolitanian Society - 1088 Thames Street.-
Syrian-Lebanese Bank, 343 Bmé. Mitre Street, Corrientes and Paso St,
Canning and Corrientes Street and branch in Córdoba.-
Lebanese Social Center - 1690 San Juan Street, Mar del Plata.-
Syrian-Lebanese Center - 4199 9 de Julio Street, Mar del Plata.-
Syrian-Lebanese Center - 640, Av. 17, Mercedes.-

There are also Arab societies in places like MORENO, NECOCHEA, BRAGADO, LOMAS DE ZAMORA, BERISSO, OLAVARRIA, RAMALLO, CHACABUCO, JUNIN, LANUS, ZARATE, etc., besides those in the provinces of great Arab concentration.-

Many of the institutions ennumerated celebrate only social, sports and cultural activities, and their intervention in some political action is rare.-

CHAPTER X

THE "DIARIO SIRIO LIBANES" AND OTHER PRESS ORGANS.

In various places in this paper we have mentioned in passing the "Diaro Sirio-Libanés". We feel, though, that this topic deserves particular comment.

This organ is edited for many years by Mr. Emilio Constantino, whose collaborations are published, though not frequently, by the daily "La Nación", particularly on issues connected with the Middle East countries. At least, Mr. Constantino considers himself one of the collaborators of that great Argentine newspaper, which he understands to flatter duly every time the occasion is propitious. The editor of this Arab organ has made recently a trip to the countries of the Middle East. It should be emphasized that "El Diario Sirio-Libanés" is the most virulently anti-Semitic publication of the Arab communities. It is easy to imagine what kind of "literature" he serves his readers. However, being written mostly in the Arab language, its poisonous influence is circumscribed to the Arab groups, and though there is not one single issue of that paper that would not deserve some Jewish reply, the press freedom under which it shelters its defamations and slanders hampers any concrete action. Be that as it may, we wish to stress that on December 2nd, 1953, the DAIA felt compelled to present a protest note to Minister of Interior, with documental evidence of the anti-Jewish campaign carried on by "El Diario Sirio-Libanés", related with the Jordan-Israeli conflict and with the statement about that conflict made by the Israeli diplomatic representative, Dr. Kubovy. Claiming to defend the Arab interests - stated DAIA - said publication, besides defaming systematically the Israeli representative, attempts to incite the public opinion against the Jews with such unsavoury devices like identifying them with "commercial speculation" or asserting that "The Zionists,... those depraved subjects, act as baits in the sinister organizations of human traffic...". It goes so far as to say that "when its hosts (Judaism's) suffered those celebrated persecutions, they were later exploited commercially". To the Israeli ambassador it attributed "espionage activities" and "abuse of the Argentine hospitality".-

These fallacies were published in the Spanish part of the Arab paper, thus acquiring a more serious nature yet.

On July 23, 1954, the DAIA had to call anew on the Interior minister to denounce the subversive action of "El Diario Sirio-Libanes" and of the journal "America y Oriente", and also the way to affix posters and leaflets in the streets and in the subways, reproducing some of the titles of papers published in the mentioned publications. With enormous typos it was stated that "The Jews desecrate the Holy Places in Jerusalem".-

The following Arab publications also appear in Buenos Aires:

ASSALAM; Editor: Camilo Chamun; 485-7 Paraguay Street.-
EL RAFIK; 1010, Reconquista Street.-

There are also other publications of irregular periodicity and little importance.

CHAPTER XI

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Though with less momentum than before, the Arab propaganda during recent months continues developing in our country in various ways.-

One of them is to solicit, through leaflets and sporadic manifestations, the solidarity of the Argentine people with the cause of the Algerian National Liberation Front.

On occasion of the recent merger between Egypt and Syria into the United Arab Republic, and also of the establishment of the United Arab States, with the United Arab Republic and Yemen as first members, the Association for Arab Culture organized a public meeting in the Buenos Aires Theater, on March 31st; during that meeting several films were shown and speeches were made by the chairman of the

organizing body, Miguel Cosma, Dr. Ricardo Rojo, leader of the Unión Cívica Radical Intransigente, and the ambassador of the United Arab Republic, Dr. Nader Kuzbari.-

The press office of the Egyptian embassy announced by all means of communication that starting from January 4th of this year, Cairo's broadcasts to Latin America would be more frequent; it also indicated transmission schedules.

Arab leaders or emissaries from abroad visit our country with certain assiduousness, but lately their target are the Algerian and Tunisian problems. In this connection Messrs. Hussein Triki and Ferhat Abbas came several times to Argentina, promoting a campaign of solidarity with the Algerian Liberation Front. The representative here of this movement is Miss Bonifacelli. Furthermore, from time to time Arab delegates, particularly Egyptians, visit our country on behalf of the Arab League or of other organisms.-

At the same time, however, a campaign against the Jews makes itself increasingly felt. On various occasions lately, and in particular during the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the State of Israel, Israeli flags were torn down from the Jewish institutions, their walls were tar-painted and anti-Jewish slogans written on the walls.-

The Arab effort to spread by leaflets, pamphlets and booklets diverse slanders, highly absurd, has been intensified. These smears do not concentrate only on "Zionism", but are designed to arouse the lowest anti-Jewish feelings among the mass of the population.

These materials are edited in the most primitive lampooning style, by the same token, the papers pretending to appear serious, don't stand the slightest analysis. Their tremendous hate against the State of Israel and its meaning for advancement in the Middle East, makes them spill over against anything Jewish.-

Thus lately a leaflet has been spread signed "Pro Palestine's Liberation", addressed to the "noble Argentine People", which to the rhetoric question "What is the State of Israel?", answers, inter alia: "The "State of Israel" is a fictitious "State", artificially erected by Russia, the United States and England, to be used as a base for their colonialist purposes in the Arab World"...

"The "State of Israel" is an open aggression against all nationalities, including the Argentine nation; for the Jew born in Argentina renounces his duty to this Fatherland, renounces service under the glorious blue-white banner to travel to Palestine, where he will kill and murder the natives, rightful masters of that country". "The "State of Israel", built over the corpses of the Palestinian heroes will not live as long as there will be one single child in whose veins pulses the blood of the Syrians and the dignity of the Arabs".

Published by a pretended "Arab Fatherland Group", there appeared very recently a pamphlet which, pretending to reply to charges made by DAIA about the discriminatory treatment of Egyptian Jewry and their situation under the Nasser regime, becomes a collection of the most worn "arguments" taken from the classic arsenal of anti-Jewish propaganda.

The pamphlet is headed "False Zionist Revelations. Reply to treacherous misstatements by DAIA. (Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations)".-

The type of this pamphlet may be gathered from the following quotations:

"The Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations (DAIA) or more precisely the Delegation of Zionist Associations", published by the end of the year 1957 a handbook of distortions, under the suggestive title of "Egypt in September 1957". "...In our country, like in all countries, the Jew, with his religious intransigence, signifies to the native that he is not merely one more immigrant coming to share his life, but to rule him, by not mixing his blood, treating him like an inferior being, notwithstanding his seeming obsequiousness. All this creates a religious and racial problem brought and presented by the selfsame Jew. In his public and private life, the Jew lives confined in his customs and religion, excluding the natives and thus he contributes to promote a feeling which he has provoked deliberately in order to appear a "victim and persecuted". "...The finance, commerce, industry, the cultural, political, religious circles feel his devastating presence. For there exists a directive line. In the Basle conference of 1879, the principles of world conquest were clearly established, as they are detailed in the "Protocols of the Wise of Zion". "...The teachings given to their young descendants reveal a deep love for Israel, at the expense of that to

the native soil, developing a conscience closed to any outside contact, they stick to their race and religion and the nationality of their origin - and then they cry out about anti-Semitism - they persevere in the need to maintain the State of Israel in order to implement their objectives of conquest, to which end they intensify the United Israel Appeal, by means of the sale of bonds to acquire arms and strengthen their aggressive power in the Near East". "DAIA's record is quite well known... it is no more than one of the many instruments - the biggest for corruption - of international Zionism, whose objectives are... the perverting of the social, political and cultural circles of the peoples, in order to subject them to its designs. DAIA published that pamphlet, written by one Nehemia Robinson, director, so they claim, of the Institute for Jewish Affairs of the World Jewish Congress. This Congress, by the way, is the continuation of the one of Basle in 1879, designed to persevere in the policy of domination, expansion and moral, economical and social subjugation of the remaining people, particularly the Christian people". Then, referring to the "illegitimate state of Israel", the pamphlet goes on talking about "the juridical aberration without parallel" of the Arab refugees, the pretended "religious persecution, particularly against Christianity, with execrable deeds, which presently elicit the following question: "How can this be passively, indifferently and secretly be taken by those affected?" Then mention is made of the pamphlets by Father E. Andraos, St. Paul's missionary, to conclude "DAIA's tactics, like that of Zionism, is to veil its purposes, clearly stated in the "Protocols of the Wise of Zion", principles which emerged from the Basle Congress of 1879, and which are of absolute veracity, since the world lives precisely the directives of these protocols". And then follow 24 of these "directives", naturally of such absurd content as can be invented only by deranged minds.

It is worthwhile to stress here the shameless and injurious form taken by this type of propaganda, which formerly appeared only in defense of Arab interests and now spreads over in this most ordinary anti-Jewish literature with a view to inflame the feelings of unsuspecting people against the Argentine Jewish community, the whole Jewish people and the State of Israel.-

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C O N C L U D I N G W O R D S

From a reading of the information presented in this paper, many conclusions may be arrived at. Without any wish to impose upon the picture each reader may have formed, we think it appropriate to make the following remarks:

The sequence of events occurred in the Middle East during recent years has projected its influence also over our country, estranging two communities, the Jewish and the Arab one, between which there existed cordial relations, individually as well as collectively, up to a certain moment. This situation has undergone obvious changes, not only as a natural reflection of the happenings abroad, but also, and in a considerable measure, through the activity deployed by agents foreign to our surroundings, who knew how to seek the collaboration of movements and elements interested in disturbing the harmony between the diverse sectors of the country, i. e. of the Nazis, racialists, anti-Semites and other like groups. On other occasions the action of these diverse centers or individuals took such forms as to appear sometimes on lines converging or as natural allies of the Arab elements. It is obvious, however, that the Arab nationalistic feeling in our country and anti-Jewish prejudice based on the Arab-Israeli conflict has been and continues to be fanned by easily identifiable and definite bodies.

Therefore we believe that the main sources inspiring and executing the activity and propaganda of anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish character are:

the three Arab diplomatic missions of the Arab States accredited before our country: Egypt, Syria and Lebanon.

Nazih Hakim, in charge of the Office of the League of Arab States in Latin America (the well known Arab League), with headquarters in 513, Suipacha Street; Nazih Hakim figures as press attaché to the Syrian embassy.

An important activity is developed also by the military attaché to the Egyptian embassy, Jaled Fawsi, who replaces the former military attaché, General Hassan F. Ismail, who has recently been nominated head of the Latin American Department of the Egyptian foreign ministry.

Many of the local Arab organizations maintain contacts - strengthened during these last years - with nazi elements, that is to say Argentines of nazi ideology and German nazis established in our country. We remember the praise showered by the nazis on the Gran Mufti of Palestine, Hadj Amin El Husseini, the congratulatory letter sent by this latter to nazism's mouthpiece in the world, the nazi journal edited in Buenos Aires, "DER WEG", on occasion of the journal's tenth anniversary, the important functions discharged presently in the Egyptian foreign ministry by the former editor and contributor to "Der Weg", von Leers, the repeated spreading of reports from the Arab League through the paper of a part of the German community in our country, "Freie Presse", the inclusion of nazi and anti-Semitic elements in some meetings of the Arab propaganda, the diffusion among the nationalistic, anti-Semitic and nazi elements of the journal "América y Oriente", etc..

The slogans and the whole Arab propaganda in our country followed chronologically the following lines:
1º) Anti-Zionism; 2º) Against the "fictitious" State of Israel; 3º) Desecration of the Holy Places and persecution of the Catholic Church and of the other religions; 4º) The problem of the Arab refugees of Palestine; 5º) "The imperialist feelings" of Israel and of the Jews; 6º) Anti-imperialism and anti-colonialism and against the "Zionist imperialism"; 7º) The Jews as promoters of racial measures against the Negroes and other coloured people in the USA and in South Africa and against the minorities in Israel itself.-

The main objectives of Arab action are: influence the Argentine government and the governments of other Latin American countries in favour of their points of view, exploiting the anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist feelings of great sectors of the peoples of South America; mobilize friendship towards the Arab cause, in the international political field and in their policy in the UN. It is to be noted that, while they have succeeded in kindling some nationalistic fervour in the Arab communities residing in our country, this has not reached the level expected by those who inflamed and exploited such feelings. An interesting measure of it may be gathered from the fact that they have not succeeded in raising funds of importance in public actions. The Arab propaganda organs dispose of great economic means, but these proceed from quite different sources.

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From the facts and conclusions given, we believe to have presented sufficient elements to appraise duly the dimensions and characteristics of the matter considered above.

We only wish to formulate one last remark. And this refers to the fact that in the present paper we have practically made no mention of the activities deployed or the measures taken on each occasion by the competent Jewish organizations, to counteract the destructive effect of the defaming campaigns against the Jews, the State of Israel and Zionism, since it is of little interest to list in detail the work done to that end; we also take for granted the knowledge of the reaction before each case assumed by our community and its central organizations, as well as the standing attention given to these problems in order to enlighten in due manner the public opinion and cancel the malign effects of the hate campaigns described above. It is our wish that the present paper may signify a contribution for the better understanding of one of the problems the Jews must face and that the hope, never refuted, of the Jewish congregation the world over that the barriers dividing the Arabs from the Jews may disappear, shall be fulfilled, thus reaching the much hoped for peaceful, neighbourly living together of these peoples in the Near East and other places in the world. Such fulfillment, we trust, shall soon become a radiant reality.-

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