

Mideast Mirror

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June 15, 1968**JORDAN DENIES REPORT ON  
SIRHAN ARREST****Father Wants to Visit U.S.**

[MIDEAST MIRROR. June 15, 1968]

AMMAN — An official Jordanian spokesman on June 10 denied a report that a brother of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the Jordanian immigrant accused of murdering Senator Robert Kennedy, had been handed over to Jordanian authorities by Iraq after being arrested on charges of spying for Israel.

The spokesman said that Jordanian authorities had no information on the subject and had not been handed over a person called Soliman Bishara Sirhan.

A news agency quoting "unofficial informed sources" in Baghdad said Soliman Sirhan was arrested carrying maps of Iraqi air and military bases and a Jordanian passport. It said he was handed over to Jordanian authorities.

Meanwhile, in Jerusalem on June 10, Bishara Salame Sirhan, father of Sirhan Sirhan, said he planned to go to the United States before the end of this month to aid in his son's defence.

"I shall do everything to raise money to defend my son", he told reporters.

Neighbours said they believed that Mr. Sirhan, who had been away from his home for a few days, had been consulting influential Arabs about the steps he should take.

Mr. Sirhan described as a "dastardly lie" the report which said one of his sons was arrested in Iraq several months ago on charges of spying for Israel. "I have no son by the name of Soliman", he said.

Mr. Sirhan, 52, added that none of his sons travelled to Iraq and the report probably referred to another Sirhan.

"I must help my son. I will do everything in my power to prove his innocence. I believe he is innocent, but if he did shoot Senator Kennedy the fault lies with circumstances", he said.

**Utterances To Blame**

Bishara Sirhan said the utterances of the late Senator were to blame. The Senator had "insulted the Arabs enough", he told a questioner.

Israel officials here said they would not stand in the father's way should he wish to go to the United States, where he once spent three years as an immigrant.

On June 14, Bishara Sirhan received permission to leave Israeli occupied territory for Jordan, and Israeli spokesman in Jerusalem said.

Bishara Sirhan asked for permission to cross the River Jordan, saying he wanted to attend to his bank account in Amman. There was no mention in the application of a possible visit to the United States.

Israeli officials said they thought it likely that Bishara Sirhan would go from Amman to New York.

But American Consular officials said that Bishara Sirhan had not yet asked for a U.S. visa. They thought it unlikely that he would be given such a visa in Amman because he was under the jurisdiction of the Consulate General in Jerusalem.

[ARAB WORLD. June 17, 1968]  
The Sirhan Story. In its edition Saturday, AL ANWAR, also in a private dispatch from Baghdad, reported that the Iraqi authorities were now investigating an Iraqi reporter who originated the story which had alleged that the Iraqi Government had turned over to the Jordanian authorities a man named Suleiman Bichara Sirhan, after he was accused of spying for Israel. The story, which identified Suleiman as brother of Sirhan Sirhan, alleged assassin of US Senator Robert Kennedy, but which proved to be completely false, was carried from Baghdad by MEN.

**BISHARA SIRHAN MAKES AMMAN PRESS STATEMENT****Possible U.S. Trip**

Beirut RNS in Arabic 1920 GMT 16 Jun 68 M

[Excerpts] Amman--Bishara Sirhan has called on the Los Angeles court and the Kennedy clan "to forgive" his son and "be lenient" with him. Sirhan Bishara Sirhan is accused of assassinating Senator Robert Kennedy. In a press statement in Amman today, Bishara Sirhan said "one of my sons was killed in Jerusalem in 1946. I was furious when the incident occurred, but after long and thorough consideration and through patience I pardoned the culprits."

He added that there is no personal feud between his family and the Kennedy clan and that "no incentive other than patriotic feeling motivated his son Sirhan to kill Senator Kennedy."

He said that his son Sirhan "had seen and endured the horrors of war since his childhood. When he grew up and became more conscious of what had befallen his country, homeland, and the Arab people, he was provoked by Senator Robert Kennedy's statements--particularly when Kennedy promised to supply specified quarters with arms and military equipment."

Bishara Sirhan reiterated his regret at the death of Senator Kennedy "in his capacity as a member of the Kennedy family and as a human being."

He said that what had happened to Senator Kennedy happened to him in his capacity as a politician. "A great man like him should have sought through feasible means to bring real peace to the Middle East, and not to set one people against another, to strengthen one people over another, or to bring one more calamity...."

He said in conclusion: "Just as any other father, I am affectionate toward my son. It is likely that I will go to the United States to be with him, but I have not yet decided to do this. If I am not able to travel, I will leave the fate of my son to U.S. justice, calling its attention to the motives that provoked his feelings."

## Request for Jordan Trial

Damascus MENA in Arabic to MENA Cairo 0955 GMT 17 Jun 68 M

[Excerpts] Amman--In a statement to MENA's correspondent, Bishara Sirhan, father of the Sirhan accused of assassinating Senator Robert Kennedy, requested that his son be tried in Jordan, saying my son is not a U.S. citizen--none of the family are U.S. citizens, they all have Jordanian citizenship. He said he requested that his son be tried outside the United States and that he be handed over to Jordan for trial.

Sirhan's father, who arrived in Amman yesterday morning, said he believes that the biased statements of the late Senator Kennedy prompted his son to assassinate the senator. He added that he still doubts that his son assassinated Kennedy, but if this turns out to be true, he believes that Senator Kennedy's statements supporting certain policies provoked his son Sirhan.

Asked his opinion on the accusation that Sirhan assassinated Senator Kennedy, he said: I have ruled out that Sirhan would do such a thing. He added: One thing I would like to make clear--there are no differences between us and the Kennedy family which would cause us to kill one of its members. But Senator Kennedy was a political figure who issued statements aimed at winning the elections. These statements were biased. He added that Kennedy promised certain circles to supply them with weapons, and also expressed contempt for the Arabs. These statements provoked Sirhan--who as a child witnessed unforgettable scenes of violence--to do what he did.

[Damascus MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT on 17 June sent the following request to MENA Cairo: "Please amend report No 5 datelined Amman entitled 'Talk with Sirhan's Father.' Do not refer to Sirhan's father's request for the trial of his son in Jordan. Only say that he requests that his son be tried outside the United States on the ground that his son is not a U.S. but a Jordanian citizen."]

## BISHARA SIRHAN PLANS TRIP TO UNITED STATES

Beirut RNS in Arabic 0950 GMT 18 Jun 68 M

[Text] Amman--Bishara Sirhan, the father of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, who is accused of assassinating the late Senator Robert Kennedy, announced today that he has decided to leave for the United States to be at his son's side "in his darkest days." Bishara said he decided to leave for the United States "after finding encouragement and backing from various popular organizations and quarters in Jordan and other Arab countries." Bishara added that he will return to the West Bank to obtain a visa from the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem.

Bishara arrived in Amman on Sunday with the permission of the Israeli authorities to spend 1 week in Amman to withdraw his account from an Amman bank.

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June 22, 1968

SIRHAN'S FATHER TO GO  
TO UNITED STATES

Asks Court for "Mercy and Magnanimity"

[MIDEAST MIRROR June 22, 1968]

AMMAN — Mr. Dishara Sirhan, father of Sirhan Sirhan, alleged assassin of Senator Robert Kennedy, said here on June 18 he would go to the United States to be with his son "in the darkest days of his life."

He said he had hesitated about going to the United States but later decided to go "after the encouragement and support I felt from the various people's organisations in Jordan and other Arab countries."

He added that he would return to Jordan's West Bank on June 23 to seek an entry visa from the American Consulate in Jerusalem.

Mr. Dishara Sirhan came here on June 16 with a permit from the Israeli authorities for a week's stay in Amman to withdraw money from a local bank.

On his arrival in Amman, Mr. Sirhan pleaded with a Los Angeles court and the Kennedy family to show "mercy and magnanimity" in the treatment of his son.

Mr. Sirhan told reporters, "I had a son killed in Jerusalem in 1946. I was very angry when the incident occurred but after thinking about the matter for a while I forgave those responsible." He said that there was no personal animosity between his own and the Kennedy family and that "only patriotic reasons were behind Sirhan's assassination of Senator Kennedy."

Mr. Sirhan said that his son "witnessed and suffered since his childhood the woes of war. When he grew up he became conscious of what happened to his country and people. Senator Kennedy's statements provoked him especially his promises of arms and military equipment to certain quarters."

Mr. Sirhan reiterated his sorrow at the death of Senator Kennedy "both as a member of the Kennedy family and as a human being."

He said that what happened to Senator Kennedy happened to him as a politician. "It would have been much more appropriate for a great man like him to exert efforts aimed at establishing real peace in the Middle East and not provoking one people against another and strengthening one people against another thus increasing calamities..."

Lebanon:

## PREMIER AL-YAFI CONDEMNS ATTACK ON KENNEDY

Paris AFP in French 1745 GMT 6 Jun 68 C

[Text] Beirut--Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Abdallah al-Yafi declared that he disapproved of the attack on Sen Robert Kennedy just as he condemned all political crimes. The head of the Lebanese Government hoped that complete light would be shed on the true motive that incited the criminal to perpetrate this ignoble assassination.

## KENNEDY DEATH CONDOLED, 'CRIME' DENOUNCED

## Al-Yafi Statement

Beirut RNS in Arabic 1120 GMT 6 Jun 68 M

[Text] Beirut--Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Abdallah al-Yafi today expressed sorrow for the death of Senator Robert Kennedy. Dr al-Yafi said: "We are grieved to see fate being so unfair to the Kennedy family." He added that he feels the grievous calamity which befell the Kennedy family and offers his sincerest condolences. Denouncing the assassination, Dr al-Yafi said: "We are against violence and attacks on persons because our oriental character and religion forbid them."

## Press Discussion

Beirut RNS in Arabic 1010 GMT 6 Jun 68 M

[Text] Beirut--The Beirut newspapers today denounce the attempt made by Sirhan Bisharah Sirhan, said to be a Jordanian in the United States, on the life of Senator Robert Kennedy.

AL-HAYAH says: The perpetrator may be an Arab citizen, but he is no more than the instrument of the crime. "To find the planners and executors of the crime, one must search for those who will benefit. No sensible Arab or non-Arab person could imagine that the Arab cause would benefit from the assassination of an internationally popular U.S. personality such as Robert Kennedy."

AL-JARIDAH says: "Everything is clear but that the one who opened fire on Robert Kennedy should be an Arab, even though in name. This is what is so odd."

AL-KIFAH says: "This action which was perpetrated in Los Angeles and attributed to an Arab Palestinian is against Arab interests. Even if the motives were personal, it is necessary to condemn and expose this action quickly and to declare that the Arabs are not responsible for it."

## NEWSPAPERS DENOUNCE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

## DAILY STAR Editorial

Beirut DAILY STAR in English 6 Jun 68 M

[Editorial: "Outcast"]

[Text] The shooting of Robert Kennedy has shocked the entire Arab world, where the junior senator from New York could count on many friends and admirers. That he had persons who disagreed with his policies cannot, of course, be discounted, but even within this group there could be no one who would condone political assassination. Even his detractors in this part of the world agree that no politician, no matter what his views or policies, should be silenced by violence.

The Arab people by nature, it is true, are very emotional. But as a nation they abhor violence. They are not prone to hatred, that vilest of human passions. They have learned throughout the ages that such feelings can only destroy. They have been taught that hatred does not give even momentary pleasure or satisfaction. The Arab has been brought up knowing well how to utilize fully the rational mind with which he is endowed, and this, he realizes, would stamp hatred from the earth.

That is why the guilt for shooting Senator Kennedy cannot be laid at the door of the Arab people. The alleged assailant is not of that breed of men who can trace their descent to the Arab whom history records is by nature forgiving, who forgets the wrong done him easily and quickly.

Nations will undoubtedly search deep in their systems to find what is at fault for such crimes. What drives a man to kill a head of state or a politician? What hypothesis is offered after the attempt is carried out? What kind of man makes such an attempt?

The man who shot Senator Kennedy is described as a crank, a rebel against authority in any form, and an outcast. Such psychic spectrum [as published] is ostracized from society; it remains on the run, does not have roots--no heritage to fall back on, no tradition to sustain it--whereas the Arab people are bound by tradition to high principles; they cherish their heritage. All this naturally makes them frown on violence. They are known to have suffered calamities with patience, treated misfortune with foresight, accepted injuries with understanding, and obtained their rights through peaceful means.

#### AL-JARIDAH Remarks

Beirut RNS in Arabic 1015 GMT 7 Jun 68 M

[Excerpt] The Lebanese paper AL-JARIDAH says: That the accused assassin is an Arab "does not mitigate the barbarism of the deed. The Arabs are the first to denounce this mad behavior, which is inconsistent with their customs and traditions. It is not permissible, under any circumstances, to blame all the people because of one individual."

BAYRUT AL-MASA says: "Even if it is proved that Sirhan assassinated Robert Kennedy because of his extremist statements in favor of Israel," this will not change our opinion--we will still denounce assassination, no matter what the reasons may be.

AL-HADAF says: "It is true that the Arabs were disappointed in Kennedy as a presidential candidate. He promised to end the Vietnamese war but did not utter one fair word about the Palestine problem and the Arab victims of his country's arms and support. However, the Arab conscience never conceived of his assassination."

AL-ANWAR says: "The bullets fired by one of the occupied West Banks youths at Robert Kennedy have no connection with the mind, behavior, or method of a people who reject and condemn political assassination."

#### Arab Nation Not Guilty

Beirut DAILY STAR in English 7 Jun 68 M

[Editorial: "One Man Guilty"]

[Text] Who would gain most from the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy? His assassin?--certainly not, for this despicable creature is destined for the gas chamber. He could have gained nothing, not even the satisfaction that he fired the fatal bullets.

The senator's political opponents--to be frank and blunt about it, maybe. But then these men are veteran politicians who serve their country. No one in his right mind can think that such men could conceive plans for political assassination. His enemies?--maybe so. But then who are the enemies of the late Mr Kennedy?.

Much has been made of the fact that the assassin is an Arab. Understandably, in the United States there was a general feeling of condemnation for the murderer. This feeling was no less high in the Arab world, where the act of this crank was condemned. All governments expressed distress and emphasized that they do not accept violence under any circumstances. People of all walks of life voiced similar feelings. Many were shocked and dismayed that Robert Kennedy should be the victim of an assassin's bullet. This reaction to the murder--a reaction we had anticipated--only proves the fact that while the assassin is an Arab, the whole Arab nation cannot be held to blame.

It cannot be argued that a whole nation stands guilty because one man acting foolishly on his own murders a distinguished personality such as the late Robert Kennedy. Just as the American people as a whole cannot be blamed because a U.S. citizen shot the late President John Kennedy, so the Arab people should not be held responsible because an Arab shot Robert Kennedy. Every country has its misfits and its criminals, and every country has its share of violence.

The man who shot Robert Kennedy is reported to have said he did it for "my country; I love my country." This in itself shows how ignorant this person is of his country's problems and how little he loves it. His country and its people do not condone violence, let alone political assassination. He should have known that his act would do more harm than good to his country.

If he shot Robert Kennedy because of a statement the late senator recently made about Israel, the assassin should have made an attempt to understand U.S. politics and politicians before embarking on such an irresponsible and criminal act. Of course Kennedy made a statement supporting Israel. This is not surprising; in fact the opposite would have been more surprising. But should he be assassinated for that? This is more proof that the murderer acted in contradiction of his countrymen's principles, which are based on peaceful methods, and that their opponents should be approached in an effort to make them aware of the truth. And this method was nearing success, even in the United States, where more sympathy for the Arabs has been shown.

Of course, there are still men like the late Robert Kennedy who continue to support Israel, either because of domestic political considerations or because they are deeply affected by the Israeli propaganda. But we do not believe that these men cannot be won over or at least made impartial.

The American people today are distressed, and we, in the Arab world, share in their sorrow. Sympathy for the American people and condemnation for the murder have been expressed in Beirut, Cairo, Amman, and most Arab capitals. We hope this will help the American people dismiss a tendency to harbor resentment. If this is achieved, our two peoples stand to gain.

## U.S. INTELLIGENCE BLAMED FOR KENNEDY DEATH

Damascus MENA in Arabic to MENA Cairo 0940 GMT 7 Jun 68 M

[Excerpts] Beirut--All Lebanese newspapers today highlight the reports about Senator Robert Kennedy's death and the current investigations of the person charged with the murder.

Analyzing the possible motives that led the Arab youth Sirhan Sirhan to assassinate Senator Kennedy, AL-ANWAR says: The circumstances of the Palestinian tragedy, the disruption of Sirhan's family, and the constant U.S. sympathy and support for Israel may have placed Sirhan in a particular psychological situation that drove him to commit this crime.

AL-MUHARRIR says: U.S. intelligence is probably behind the assassination out of fear that, in the event of Robert Kennedy's election as president, he might open the files on John Kennedy's assassination to reveal the true assassins.

The newspapers adds that a Palestinian youth was selected to carry out the assassination in order to harm the Palestinian cause through a concentrated Zionist propaganda war. This would also remove any suspicion from U.S. intelligence.

## DAILY STAR VIEWS U.S. EDITORIAL ON KENNEDY

Beirut DAILY STAR in English 9 Jun 68 M

[Editorial: "Appreciation of Appeal"]

[Text] A word of thanks to the Washington POST for its editorial on Friday branding as "mischievous cynicism" attempts to link the Arabs with the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy. While the editorialist proclaimed it was not foolish of the American citizens to support Israel, he chose to write in the same breath about the crime in relation to U.S.-Arab ties, dismissing the allegation that the Arabs as a whole were responsible for the murder of Robert Kennedy. He stressed that the exploitation of "The Arab link for a political purpose" does not serve the "continuing U.S. interest in peace in the Middle East."

And while the writer did not name the party or parties that would exploit the crime for political purposes, it is safe to assume that he had Israel and the U.S. Zionists in mind, for who else would benefit from slandering the Arabs? Certainly not the U.S. public, which stands to gain nothing from such base maneuvers. Furthermore, we do not believe the American people will stoop that low, no matter how grieved they are at the loss of Senator Kennedy.

There remains one other relevant matter: U.S. interest in peace in the Middle East. This interest is felt no less in this part of the world. Both our people and the people of the United States have a common goal; we differ only in the means to achieve this peace.

Ever since the Arabs lost last June's battle, the Israeli Government, well supported by worldwide Zionist propaganda, has been campaigning for the establishment of peace on its own terms without the least consideration for the rights and points of views of the Arabs. The Tel Aviv Government has been adamant that stability and peace in the region cannot be restored unless the Arabs yield to its demands, whereas-- and this is already common knowledge--the Arabs have made important concessions in their quest for a durable peace.



The Arab view is that peace can be brought to the Middle East if both parties to the conflict recognize the rights of the other. The Arabs have publicly offered to end the state of belligerency to provide Israel with secure boundaries. All they want in return is the withdrawal of the occupying forces from Arab territory and the restoration of rights to the millions of homeless Palestinians, many of whom are refugees twice over. Is this too much to ask?--or should we be divested of all our rights for the sake of peace? And what are the chances of peace in the Middle East if the Arab grievances are not recognized?

We are certain that the U.S. public in general is not fully aware of the Arab case. If we have failed in the past to present a clear picture of the Arab side of the problem, better efforts will be made in the future. We ask only that the U.S. public, and indeed the world at large, listen to us without prejudice, devoid of Zionist propaganda, and without allowing the assassination of Senator Kennedy to cloud its rational mind.

#### LAWYERS REQUEST PERMISSION TO DEFEND SIRHAN

Damascus MENA in Arabic to MENA Cairo 1440 GMT 12 Jun 68 M

[Text] Beirut--Lebanese lawyers Musa Burnus and Abd al-Hamid al-Ahdab have asked the U.S. Embassy in Beirut to grant them permission to go to the United States to defend Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, who is accused of assassinating U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy. Embassy officials have promised the Lebanese lawyers that the request will be studied and that a reply will be given in 2 days.

Morocco:

## KING HASSAN CABLES SYMPATHIES TO MRS R. KENNEDY

Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 5 Jun 68 L

[Text] A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry has declared that His Majesty's Government is pained at the attack on Sen Robert Kennedy, that it deplores this incident and once again condemns the use of force and violence in any way, particularly in the political sphere.

Furthermore, Dr Ahmad al-Iraqi, the foreign minister, has sent a cable to the wife of Sen Robert Kennedy, which says: His Majesty King Hassan II has received with deep sorrow and pain the report of the attempt on the life of your husband today. His Majesty has asked me to convey to you condolences and best wishes for the speedy recovery of your husband.

## KING HASSAN SENDS CONDOLENCES TO MRS KENNEDY

Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Summary] Following the death of Sen Robert Kennedy, His Majesty King Hasan II sent cables of condolence to President Johnson and Mrs Robert Kennedy. In his cable to President Johnson, His Majesty said: "I am deeply heartsick and feel profound sorrow at the death of Senator Kennedy, who fell victim of a vile outrage. We express to you our heartfelt condolences and we wish to convey on our behalf to the American people our sorrow at the loss of one of the outstanding citizens of the United States."

In his cable to Mrs Robert Kennedy, His Majesty said: "We have received the news of the death of your husband with deep sorrow. We express to you our sympathy and condolences and hope you will bear this tragedy with courage."

Saudi Arabia:

## JIDDA COMMENTARY VIEWS KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Jun 68 M

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Senator Robert Kennedy's death--his tragic assassination brought about by destiny--has left a deep note of sorrow that will be long heard in the United States and abroad. Such a brilliant personality as Kennedy cannot be forgotten easily, because to many people the name Kennedy has become symbolic of the aspirations of youth for a world devoid of crime and war, a world of harmony and peace.

The Arab nation may need to raise its voice a little higher than other voices if it is really proved--as is reported--a young Arab is the culprit. We say this not out of fear that the Arab nation may be placed in the dock for the action of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan but because of a devious development of events and destiny has chosen Sirhan to play a role which, if preliminary investigations hold true, we can only describe as miserable and vehemently denounce and condemn.

We wonder again: Where does the culprit fit in the picture? Is it logical at all that he should be considered a defender of Arabism and its causes since he left the Arab world and emigrated when he was 13 years old, still young and immature, since he has grown up and matured in the United States under the influence of the various factors influencing and dominating U.S. society?

Sudan:

## AL-AZHARI CONDEMNS KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

Omdurman Sudan Domestic Service in English 1340 GMT 7 Jun 68 K/L

[Summary] In a statement to the LOCAL NEWS AGENCY, President al-Azhari deplored and condemned the assassination of Sen Robert Kennedy. He further condemned the violence which, he said, had unfortunately dominated the United States, and whose target had always been leaders and men of the first line. President al-Azhari urged the American people to eradicate this, as it threatened the democratic system as a whole. He called on the American people not to resort to violence.

Abd al-Majud Abu Hasabu, minister of information and social affairs, and the government's official spokesman, also deplored the assassination of Robert Kennedy in a statement to the LOCAL NEWS AGENCY. Abu Hasabu accused the Zionist (?bands) of being responsible for the assassination of Senator Kennedy, and said that international Zionism was behind the recent disturbances.

## Press Comment

Paris AFP in French 1144 GMT 9 Jun 68 C

[Text] Khartoum--Sudan's most important daily paper, AR-RAY AL-AMM, devoting its editorial to the death of Sen Robert Kennedy, writes: When a crime such as this takes place one must ask who really had an interest in committing it; then those who are so designated can only be the persons who wished to bar Senator Kennedy from access to the White House.

Syria:

## PAPER SEES JOHNSON BEHIND KENNEDY MURDER

Damascus SANA in Arabic 1310 GMT 6 Jun 68 M

[Text] Damascus--Commenting on the attempt to assassinate Senator Robert Kennedy, ATH-THAWRAH says: Certainly, the attempt on Robert Kennedy's life was not so much against him personally as it was against the mounting radical tendency among the American people. The fact that it was Robert Kennedy who was attacked should not hide the identity of the real person who pulled the trigger in the dark.

The horse trader who became president after the assassination of the late President John Kennedy--the horse trader whose personal history has been linked with the scandal of Bobby Baker, the narcotics merchant known to be a homosexual and furtive embezzler of millions--could be the person who interfered yesterday to end Kennedy's life. This horse trader, who wanted to give the impression that he had abandoned the idea of running in the elections, may come back to play his part in the impossible farce being repeated in the United States today.

Even if Johnson does not change his mind about running in the presidential elections, evidence indicates he played the role of triggerman, acting the part planned for him in the theatrical of maintaining the status quo at any price--preservation of the U.S. imperialist regime's task.

## AL-BATH COMMENTS ON KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

Damascus MENA in Arabic to MENA Cairo 0720 GMT 7 Jun 68 M

[Text] Damascus--The newspaper AL-BATH says today that the Arabs do not benefit from the assassination of any U.S. politician, because such assassinations will not change the nature of the U.S. regime or its stand on Arab causes. AL-BATH adds: The Arabs would particularly not benefit from such an assassination when the victim is Robert Kennedy.

The newspaper adds: Reports that the person who shot Kennedy was an Arab should be considered with great caution. Even if this person actually shot Kennedy, the true facts of the matter remain: the ruling circles used him--lured him into becoming their gunman.

AL-BATH says that Robert Kennedy, just like his brother John, was a victim of the struggle among the various U.S. monopolistic interests, particularly those which refuse to comply with the spirit of the age. Enumerating the aims behind the attempt to involve the Arabs in the case, AL-BATH says this attempt aims at removing Kennedy from the scene while hiding the true reasons for his assassination and giving anti-Arab circles a good subject for their constant propaganda.

In conclusion the newspaper expresses fears that the true facts behind Robert Kennedy's assassination will be destroyed, just as in the case of his brother's assassination.

## ATH-THAWRAH EXAMINES KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Jun 68 M

[Excerpts] The title of the article in ATH-THAWRAH's "With the Events" column today is: "Why Did Johnson Avoid Mentioning His Disagreements With Kennedy?" The paper says: The attempt of the capitalist propaganda media to defame the Arabs by exploiting Robert Kennedy's assassination is foolish.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: Johnson made more than one statement after Robert Kennedy's assassination, but did not utter a single word about the disagreements among the various elements that make up the U.S. capitalist political machinery. He did not make a single reference to the fact that he and Kennedy belonged to two different groups and that the members of Johnson's group strongly opposed the idea of Robert Kennedy becoming president of the United States. The members of Johnson's group were annoyed by Kennedy's continuous criticism of their policy.

ATH-THAWRAH then refers to the aims behind the attempt by capitalist propaganda machinery to change facts and formulate a favorable public opinion. The paper says that this extremely foolish maneuver will not succeed.

Tunisia:

## OFFICIALS CONDEMN ATTEMPT ON KENNEDY'S LIFE

Tunis TAP in French 1900 GMT 5 Jun 68 L

[Summary] Official Tunisian circles, questioned by TAP following the attempt against Robert Kennedy, expressed their deep emotion. "We have never ceased to favor free speech in all circumstances, they state--the struggle of ideas by a healthy confrontation and not by violence. We condemn the political attempt and regret that there is a danger of such things becoming habitual in such a great democracy as the United States of America."

## BOURGUIBA CABLES CONDOLENCES ON KENNEDY DEATH

Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jun 68 L

[Summary] President Bourguiba has sent a cable to President Johnson expressing condolences over the death of Sen Robert Kennedy. He also sent a similar cable to Mrs Kennedy. Muqaddam, the speaker of the National Assembly, sent a cable to the U.S. ambassador requesting him to convey his condolences to the U.S. Senate and Mrs Kennedy.

UAR:

AL-AHRAM

Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0505 GMT 7 Jun 68 M

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the heading: "A word must be said on the Kennedy tragedy," AL-AHRAM says: No one can condone murder or accept it as a means of expressing a view or a specific idea. Therefore, the murder of Senator Kennedy is a dreadful tragedy from all aspects, particularly from the human aspect.

The paper adds: But we must note two points with regard to the tragedy of Sen Robert Kennedy's murder: 1) the Palestinian Youth Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, who is accused of the murder, is the natural product of the atmosphere of crime in the United States. He left his Arab homeland 11 years ago when he was 12. This means that he spent his formative years in the United States; and 2) it is rather painful to say this, but it is a fact that the obvious American discrimination against the Arabs is taxing people's nerves, particularly the nerves of Arab immigrants in the United States. Robert Kennedy's slayer, therefore, is a mixture of violence--which characterizes American life--and of discrimination against a people's cause.

Concluding, AL-AHRAM says: This is a word which must be put on record notwithstanding the victim, whose tragic death we cannot but deeply regret.

SIRHAN NOT A MEMBER OF U.S. ARAB STUDENT BODY

Cairo MENA in Arabic 2112 GMT 7 Jun 68 M

[Text] Cairo--Quoting its correspondent in New York, AL-AHRAM says that the executive committee of the Arab students organization in the United States has announced that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, who is accused of assassinating Robert Kennedy, is not a member of the organization or of its branch in Pasadena, where his family lives. The organization has denied all U.S. press reports aimed at establishing a connection between Sirhan's action and the Arab students organization.

Radio Feature

Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Jun 68 M

[From "Spotlight on World Problems"]

[Excerpts] While the entire international community has denounced the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy--because crime, individual or otherwise, cannot have

positive results--there is an important fact in regard to U.S. society--which has witnessed in only a few years the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and then Robert Kennedy--that the effects of the U.S. policy of violence abroad have had repercussions on U.S. society at home. The American people cannot avoid seeing the contradictions, division, confusion, and chaos in their society while witnessing the policy of violence followed in Vietnam and the Middle East, the plots carried out against African peoples, and the attempts made through the CIA to control peoples' resources. It has been said, and correctly, that Robert Kennedy was not killed in Los Angeles but in Vietnam and everywhere the U.S. policy of violence is employed.

U.S. society needs a moral revolution--a revolution of principles and ideals, a revolution of reversion to the truth and a relinquishment of the policy of violence and force, a revolution of recognition of the facts of the age in which we are living.



## AL-YAWM REVEALS DETAILS ABOUT SIRHAN'S LIFE

Damascus MENA in Arabic to MENA Cairo 1745 GMT 8 Jun 68 M

[Text] Beirut--Lebanon's AL-YAWM reveals in this evening's edition details about the life and views of Arab youth Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, who is accused of assassinating Senator Robert Kennedy. The details were related to AL-YAWM by a Lebanese engineer, a friend of Sirhan who had lived with him for about 2 years in the United States when they were attending school.

The engineer said that Sirhan had been active from the very beginning of the Palestine problem and that he believed it could be solved only by violence. Sirhan was disappointed with American society because it was not interested in the Palestine issue.

The Lebanese engineer described Sirhan as extremist, emotional, and truthful and said he could not discuss the Palestine issue without becoming tense and agitated. The engineer also said that Sirhan hated the Americans' belief that the Arabs are a backward people. He also despised American indifference and lack of interest in learning the truth about the Arabs. This, he said, created in Sirhan a strong desire for revenge.

Asked about the reasons which prompted Sirhan to kill Kennedy, the engineer said: Sirhan was trying to bring the Arab view to the ordinary U.S. citizen. This is not always easy for the Arabs because of Zionist domination of the U.S. information media.

The Lebanese engineer expressed the belief that Sirhan thought that assassinating a presidential candidate would draw attention to him and that he could consequently use the court as a platform to explain the Palestine issue. The engineer said that may have been the reason why Sirhan refused to seek a lawyer to defend him and why he insisted on defending himself. The engineer expressed the belief that Sirhan is the best lawyer in the case because he has a (?glib) tongue, a strong plea, is familiar with U.S. law, and has a good command of English.

The Lebanese engineer also said that he believed that Sirhan's assassination of Robert Kennedy was prompted by desperation and dejection as a result of the ferocious Zionist propaganda in the United States.

## CAIRO MEDIA CARRY COMMENT ON KENNEDY DEATH

## AL-AKHBAR Column

Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0505 GMT 10 Jun 68 M

[From the press review]

[Text] In its column, "The Outside World," AL-AKHBAR comments on Goldberg's statement about Robert Kennedy's death. Under the title "Feeling of Regret, Not Guilt," the writer says: We feel deep regret at the assassination of Robert Kennedy or of any other political leader regardless of his attitude toward our causes. By the same token, we do not want anyone for any motives to murder those who are worse than Robert Kennedy in the United States or the other imperialist states.

But the feeling of regret and denunciation must not be interpreted as a feeling of guilt because of the reported Palestinian origin of the assassin. U.S. and Zionist quarters must not forget that there is no American of American origin and that all U.S. citizens--murderers and honorable people--stem from various nationalities, including Palestinians, Germans, Britons, and others.

We wonder, therefore, about the statement by Goldberg, who has condescended to reassure the Arab delegates at the United Nations that his country is not taking a stand against their governments after Kennedy's assassination even if the suspect is of Arab origin. We feel that such statements are in line with the attitude of Zionist circles since the day of the incident. We also think that if anyone should feel guilty, it must be those who are responsible for U.S. society, because those who assassinate entire peoples and homelands without hesitation also will not hesitate a moment to murder individuals.

## GAZETTE ASKS QUESTIONS ABOUT KENNEDY MURDER

Cairo EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 13 Jun 68 M

[Editorial: "What Is the Motive?"]

[Excerpts] Will the world ever know the truth about the murder of Senator Robert Kennedy? The accused has not yet gone on trial, but almost from the moment the crime was committed certain people began to work--notably Mayor Sam Yorty of New Orleans [as published]--to exploit the alleged killer's origin in order to throw the responsibility for the crime onto the Arab nation. The accused, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, is a Palestinian immigrant in the United States. Mayor Yorty has repeatedly, in the course of his press interviews, ascribed Arab nationalist motives to him for committing the crime. The mayor has suggested that Senator Kennedy's support of Zionism provided Sirhan with the motive for shooting the senator down. The motive for the crime, however, still remains very much an open question.

Our concern for the revelation of the truth rests on solid foundations. The world is still awaiting satisfactory explanations for the assassinations in recent years of three outstanding U.S. citizens besides the senator--President John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X, Negro leader of an orthodox Islamic movement in the United States, and Martin Luther King Jr. And although there are several pointers in all three cases to the killings having been the work of powerful organizations, the world continues to be told by the U.S. authorities that there is no evidence that the crimes were committed by other than social misfits of one kind or another who suddenly saw red.

As for why the senator was killed, apart from unrevealed personal grudges of individuals that may exist, there are a variety of possible political motives. Mayor Yorty's suggestion that the killing was motivated by Arab nationalist, anti-Zionist feelings on the part of the alleged killer is worthy of closer examination, for perhaps the first question that was brought to the mind of every Arab nationalist on hearing of the senator's death and Mayor Yorty's accusations was: But why Robert Kennedy? The other four candidates in the U.S. presidential elections--McCarthy, Rockefeller, Nixon, and Humphrey--no less than Kennedy was, are vehement supporters of Zionist policy against the Arabs. Then again, what evidence is there that the alleged killer, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, is an Arab nationalist?

As for other possible motives, Robert Kennedy's support for Negro rights could hardly have pleased the advocates of white supremacy and then, Mark Lane, the lawyer, says Kennedy had told New Orleans District Attorney James Garrison that he realized that there was a violent conflict between his family and the White House, that he knew his brother had been the victim of a conspiracy, and that were he elected president he would bring the conspirators to trial. All these factors provide possible motives for the crime and should be investigated.

ISRAELI-JEWISH PRESS

[JERUSALEM POST.]

**Kennedy, McCarthy  
June 4, 1968]  
both support Israel**

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI). — Senators Robert Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy, both aspirants for the Presidency, on Saturday night referred to the Middle East crisis. The two Democratic hopefuls did not disagree on what U.S. policy toward Israel and the Arab states should be.

In an hour-long nationwide television "Debate," both reaffirmed the U.S. "commitment" to Israel.

"There is a difference between internal aggression and external aggression," Mr. Kennedy said when comparing his "dovish" attitude toward the U.S. commitment in Vietnam to his more militant stand on the U.S. position in the Middle East. Mr. Kennedy explained his differing views on the U.S. commitments by saying that Israel, unlike South Vietnam, had the support of virtually its entire population.

Mr. Kennedy had proposed that the U.S. send 50 Phantom jet fighters to Israel to bolster Israel defences. Mr. McCarthy agreed that the 50 jets should be sold to Israel.

[JERUSALEM POST.]

**Robert Kennedy  
June 6, 1968]**

YESTERDAY was again a day of horror and grief — not only in the U.S., but amongst all nations and peoples for whom America and democratic ideals are dear.

The attack on Senator Robert Kennedy, coming after the assassination of his brother the President, and the more recent killing of Martin Luther King, prompted profound disquiet about the very future of American society.

But for Israel this sense of shock last night turned into disbelief with the news that the assailant was a Jordanian who according to eye witnesses reportedly shouted that he sought to murder the Presidential candidate for "his country."

Such a grotesque conjunction of the tragedy of the Kennedy family, and the political conflict of our region—a conjunction which an Arab spokesman in the U.S. had the unbelievable temerity to justify—drains any words of comment of meaning.

At this hour, therefore, all that remains, is for us to join the Kennedy family, and the people of America in their fervent hopes and prayers that Robert Kennedy will survive, that he may once again rise to ignite the hopes and aspirations of the young and the downtrodden who esteem him so, that he may once again be able to pursue his goal of creating an America and a world in which the violent unreasoning passion which struck him down will breed no more.

# JORDANIAN CHARGED WITH SHOOTING ROBERT KENNEDY

[JERUSALEM POST]  
**CRITICAL AFTER**  
June 6, 1968]  
**BRAIN OPERATION**

LOS ANGELES (REUTER). — SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY, WITH A MAJOR PRIMARY ELECTION VICTORY BEHIND HIM, WAS YESTERDAY CUT DOWN BY A GUNMAN WHO ONCE LIVED IN A VILLAGE NORTH OF JERUSALEM. WHILE SENATOR KENNEDY LAY IN HOSPITAL IN A CRITICAL CONDITION FROM SHOT WOUNDS IN THE HEAD AND NECK, THE LOS ANGELES AUTHORITIES CHARGED SIRHAN SIRHAN WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER.

Surgeons carried out a delicate, three-hour operation to remove one bullet which had penetrated the 42-year-old Senator's brain.

The medical team at the Catholic Good Samaritan Hospital reported in a bulletin that there had been impairment of the brain's blood supply governing many vital physical and mental functions.

Dr. Henry Cuneo, who assisted in the operation, said several major arteries were severed and Kennedy's brain suffered extensive loss of blood and oxygen as well as several blood clots. Cuneo said Kennedy also suffered injuries to the spinal cord.

The second bullet was apparently still lodged in Senator Kennedy's neck, but this was not regarded as a major problem.

The assassination attempt took place with stunning suddenness in the sumptuous Ambassador Hotel, where Senator Kennedy had only moments before delivered a victory oration. The gunman, a swarthy, dark-haired man, leapt from the shadows after the Senator had gone into the hotel kitchen, taking a short cut from the ballroom to the press room. He fired at point-blank range as Senator Kennedy was shaking hands with kitchen helpers.

Senator Kennedy, whose own brother, President Kennedy, was assassinated with a rifle four-and-a-half years ago, fell to the concrete floor, blood pouring from his wounds. The gunman emptied his eight-chamber revolver and wounded three other bystanders before he was overpowered and dragged away through hysterical, sobbing Kennedy supporters who clawed at him, shouting: "Kill him, Kill him."

Three other men were shot in the fusillade of bullets that felled Senator Kennedy. The men, standing near Kennedy in the ballroom of the Ambassador Hotel, were Bill Weizel, an associate producer of the American Broadcasting Company; Paul Schrade, an official of the United Auto Workers Union, and Ira Goldstein, a radio newsman.

Weizel, 30, hit in the abdomen, was in undetermined condition, as was Schrade, 43, with a scalp wound. Goldstein, 19, shot in the leg and back, was said to be in good condition in hospital.

Senator Kennedy's wife, Ethel, expecting her 11th child, rushed to her husband's side and nestled his head on her lap. It was a gesture like Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy's after President Kennedy's murder in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963.

The Senator was wheeled unconscious from the operating theatre to an intensive care unit while President Johnson ordered one of America's top brain surgeons, Dr. James L. Popen, to make a 3,500-mile dash from Boston, Massachusetts, to give aid.

Ironically, Senator Kennedy was gunned down after vowing in his victory speech to put an end to violence if he were elected President.

Senator Kennedy received 46 per cent of the vote, Senator McCarthy 42 per cent, with 12 per cent for a local list supporting Vice-President Hubert Humphrey.

For the Republicans, Governor Ronald Reagan won as an unopposed "favourite son."

# *No words equal to the [JERUSALEM POST, June 6, 1968] horror of this, says LBJ*

President Johnson said in Washington yesterday that all America was praying for the recovery of Senator Kennedy. "We also pray that divisiveness and violence be driven from the hearts of men everywhere," he added in a statement. "There are no words equal to the horror of this tragedy."

In New York, the Headquarters of the rival Democratic candidate, Senator Eugene McCarthy, ordered a halt to all political campaigning in New York. A spokesman said: "We are all terribly shocked. We have called a moratorium on all political campaigning in the State until further notice."

The New York Stock Market declined in early active trading yesterday in an emotional response to the shooting of Senator Kennedy. But prices quickly started to recover after the initial burst of selling.

Premier Levi Eshkol yesterday expressed hopes for the speedy recovery of Senator Robert Kennedy. In a message to President Johnson, Mr. Eshkol said that he was deeply shocked at the fresh tragedy that had befallen the American people with the attempt on the life of Senator Kennedy. Those who were appalled at the use of violence as a means of settling human problems prayed for the complete and speedy recovery of Senator Kennedy and his return to a dynamic part in the life of America.

In a cable to the Senator's family, Mr. Eshkol said that he joined his prayers and best wishes to those all over the world who were praying for the speedy recovery of the Senator.

In Moscow a Russian press commentator said yesterday that the shooting of Senator Kennedy drew attention to the political jungle of modern America, where the murder of political leaders was becoming "an increasingly frequent occurrence." The commentator, of the official Tass news agency, added that there were still many unanswered questions about the assassination of President John Kennedy, and asked: "Can one fully exclude the possibility that the attempt on Robert Kennedy was linked in some way with the murder of the President himself?"

Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield said that he was "terribly disheartened and saddened" that another member of the Kennedy family has been attacked. "I wonder what is happening to this country. I'm shocked that this violence is becoming so prevalent."

Senate Republican leader Everett M. Dirksen termed the shooting "a disaster of national proportions" and said that it served to emphasize the lawlessness which had gripped the country.

In Los Angeles, Mr. Charles Evers, a Negro leader who was with Senator Kennedy shortly before the shooting, said: "The Senator was like a brother to me. I believe he was going to do what is right for all the people." (AP, UPI, Reuter)

# 'Let me explain,' gunman shouted

## TWO NEGRO ATHLETES HELPED CAPTURE ASSAILANT

[JERUSALEM POST. June 6, 1968]

LOS ANGELES. — Senator Robert F. Kennedy finished making a statement claiming victory in the California primary, then left the 'speakers' platform in the Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel. It was shortly after midnight, local time (10 a.m. Israel time).

Accompanied by members of his family and close associates, he walked behind the bandstand and into a corridor leading to the kitchen. He was mobbed by well-wishers, campaign workers, and hotel employees. His wife, Ethel, had been at his side during the speech, but she became enveloped in the crowd. Sen. Kennedy gazed around as though searching for her.

Karl Uecker, the assistant maitre d'hotel, said he had taken Sen. Kennedy's hand and was pulling him through the crowds into the kitchen area. At that moment the gunman pushed through the throng, reached his arm around others, and shot the Senator.

"Someone jumped up from the floor. I saw paper flying — it might have been a paper bag the gun was in," Mr. Uecker said. "At the second shot Sen. Kennedy lost my hand and fell.

"I quickly got a headlock on the gunman but he kept shooting," he continued. Two bullets hit Kennedy but the others sprayed among people standing round him.

### Assailant seized

A waiter at the Ambassador Hotel said he had just finished shaking hands with Sen. Kennedy and "all of a sudden this fellow jumped out and he started to fire. It was so fast, and all of a sudden somebody was yelling 'Grab him! Grab him!'"

"Then the Senator slid down to his knees. His eyes were open when he started to go down.

"His wife came over and she asked the photographers to please stop taking pictures. She wasn't crying or anything."

Roosevelt Grier, 145-kg. American football player, grabbed the man's arm. Joe Lahive, a local Kennedy campaigner, wrested the gun away. Grier and Olympic decathlon champion Rafer Johnson lifted the assailant and spread him on a steel kitchen table. "Nobody hurt this man!" one of the athletes shouted. "We want to take him alive!"

Sen. Kennedy was stretched on the floor, his face covered with blood. "Give him room! Step back!" someone yelled. Sen. Kennedy seemed to hear nothing. His face was blank, his eyes staring sightlessly.

Grier, Johnson and two or three others held the gunman on the table 3 metres away. Screams began to be heard in the ballroom as news of the shooting spread to the campaigners, who had been cheering their candidate two minutes before.

"Let me explain!" the gunman shouted.

"I can explain."

A priest handed Sen. Kennedy a ro-

sary, and he clutched it in his hand, but the priest was jostled aside.

Sen. Kennedy was given emergency treatment by a doctor summoned from the ballroom. Then he was wheeled on a stretcher to the hotel service elevator and put into an ambulance.

He was treated at Central Receiving

Hospital where the last rites of the Roman Catholic church were administered. Sen. Kennedy was then taken a few blocks to the Good Samaritan Hospital, where he entered the intensive care unit.

The gunman, apparently unharmed, was rushed through the Ambassador lobby by police 10 minutes after the shooting. By this time the crowd knew that Sen. Kennedy had been shot.

### Had no identification

"Kill him! lynch him!" onlookers shouted. They milled forward to get at the man, but the police ran him down the stairs next to the famed Cocoanut Grove night club and got him to the central jail.

Los Angeles Police Chief Thomas Reddin said there was only one suspect in the case, the man in custody. The gunman carried no identification, Chief Reddin said, adding, "We made a skin search of him, checking that he had nothing on him to take his life. We have advised him of his rights. He doesn't want a lawyer now."

Asked if the man was of Latin-American extraction, Chief Reddin said: "I don't know. I can't tell." He added that he

might possibly be of Eurasian extraction.

The gunman was described as Latin-looking, about 25, of medium height and with curly hair. He wore blue jeans and tennis shoes.

The gunman refuses to identify himself or make a statement, Chief Reddin reported. "We don't know who the suspect is," Chief Reddin told a news conference. "He has made no statement. He would not speak, except once he said 'Yes.'"

"We describe him as a Male Caucasian, around 25, 5 feet 5 (1.65 m.) about 120 pounds (54 kg.), swarthy complexion. His hair is described as wiry or bushy."

One witness said the shots came so close together that he could hardly believe they were fired from one gun. The gunman was booked on suspicion of assault with intent to commit murder. Chief Reddin said the gunman used an eight-shot .22-calibre pistol and expended all eight shots.

(AP, UPI, Reuter)

# [JERUSALEM POST Sirhan family in U.S. 11 years June 6, 1968]

LOS ANGELES. — A 23-year-old man from a village near Jerusalem was charged here yesterday with the attempted murder of Senator Robert Kennedy. He is Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, and was charged on six counts of assault with intent to murder.

In Washington the authorities said that Sirhan was a Jordanian and came to the U.S. 11 years ago. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service reported that Sirhan arrived in New York on January 12, 1957, as a permanent resident. They said he was born on March 19, 1944. He was not an American citizen.

In New York, the secretary-general of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations said that Sirhan "may have been inflamed" by a statement made Saturday night during the Kennedy-McCarthy televised debate. Mohammed T. Mehdi said that while Kennedy was discussing Vietnam he said America should support Israel in the conflict in the Middle East. "It is this disrespect for the human Arab person which brings about this kind of violence," Mehdi said.

"We do not condone Mr. Sirhan's act and we are indeed appalled. However, his behavior reflects the frustration of many Arabs with American politicians who have sold the Arab people of Palestine to the Zionist-Jewish voters."

The Los Angeles police said that according to their files Sirhan was born in the former Jordanian sector of Jerusalem.

The police said they had cleared the owner of a car whose key had been found in Sirhan's possession. A gun, an eight-shot .22 revolver taken from the suspect, was not registered in his name. A derogatory news clipping on Senator Kennedy had been found on Sirhan. He had also carried four \$100 bills.

Sirhan is one of five brothers living in the Los Angeles area, according to one of the brothers, Said Sirhan, who identified himself as one of them in a telephone interview. The others were Adel, Munir, Sherif and the accused.

Said Sirhan declined to give any other details, apart from stating that Sirhan Sirhan came to the U.S. in 1957 and that he himself arrived in this country in 1950. Sirhan Sirhan was reported to have worked in a health food store in Pasadena until March 7, and a supervisor there was quoted as describing him as a "revolutionary" who rebelled against all kinds of authority.

Earlier, a police spokesman said: "We describe him as a male Caucasian, around 25, 5 feet 5 and about 120 pounds, swarthy complexion, his hair is described as wiry or bushy."

A police spokesman said that Sirhan was "extremely articulate and with a good vocabulary" in talking about matters other than the shooting.

A State worker in Pasadena, California, Alvin Clark, said he knew Sirhan and that he "hated Kennedy because he hated everyone with money." Sirhan did not smoke or drink. He recently got a \$1,100 settlement after he had been thrown from a horse.

Clark said the brother, Adel, was prejudiced against Jews, and that when he found out last week he was working for one he quit his job.

Brandon Lamont, who lived next door to the Sirhans, said they were "a quiet family, kept to themselves."

(Reuters, AP, UPI)

## [JERUSALEM POST June 6, 1968] Two clans near Jerusalem

Jerusalem Post Reporter

There are two large Sirhan families in the Jerusalem area, but both are Moslem, while the name of the alleged gunman's father, Bishara (annunciation), indicates that the family is Christian.

From the moment the wire services flashed the news last night that the man held for the attempted Kennedy killing came from East Jerusalem, local newsmen set out on a hunt for the family.

The trail led from a travel agent in East Jerusalem who knew a hotel waiter related to the Sirhan clan. The waiter said there were Sirhans in Silwan village and in two small villages near Nebi Samwil.

Climbing the hills through the deserted, moonlit alleys of Silwan led to a mukhtar, only recently appointed because the former mukhtar left for Amman. He did not know of a Sirhan family.

On the way to the home of the next mukhtar, the convoy had grown to about five press and TV cars. This time the name rang a bell and the mukhtar led the convoy to the home of Arafat Sirhan where the light came on after several minutes of knocking. Shown a radiophoto of the alleged gunman, however, Mr. Sirhan did not recognize the suspect.

A hotel owner in East Jerusalem, when told last night that the arrested man was reported to have said "I did it for my country," said bitterly "What country? He's been living there for 11 years. What does he want to involve us for?"

## SHAZAR SENDS CONDOLENCES ON KENNEDY DEATH

Jerusalem International Service in English 1130 GMT 6 Jun 68 M

[Telegram from President Zalman Shazar to President Johnson]

[Text] For myself, and for all the people of Israel, bowed by grief for the brilliant and precious life so untimely and savagely cut down, I send profound sympathy to you and the American people and would deeply appreciate the transmission to Mrs Kennedy and the family of our sorrowful condolence in their incredibly tragic loss.

(signed) Zalman Shazar, President of Israel

## ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS DISCUSS ATTACK ON KENNEDY

## Before Death Known

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Jun 68 M

[From the morning press review]

[Text] The Jerusalem POST says that yesterday was again a day of sorrow and dread, not only for the people of the United States but for the entire democratic world. The criminal attack on Sen Robert Kennedy, which followed the assassination of other public leaders in the United States, threw American society into turmoil. In Israel, the paper says, the feeling of shock was mingled with a feeling of disbelief when it was learned that the man who shot the senator is a Palestinian from Jerusalem. This grotesque link between the tragedy which hit the Kennedy family and the conflict in our region, the paper says, leaves us speechless.

LAMERHAV says that, like the other attempts on the lives of public leaders in the United States in recent years, the attempt to assassinate Robert Kennedy is another manifestation of the thread of violence that runs through the fabric of American life. At this moment, the paper says, all people of good will can only pray for the (?life) of the young senator and wish him complete recovery.

AL HAMISHMAR, KOL HAAM, and HATZOFE regard the attempt to assassinate Robert Kennedy as a reflection of political trends in the United States. AL HAMISHMAR says the only explanation for this deed is the strength of dark elements--the forces of social reaction--in the United States, which hate every idea of progress and are ready to harm everyone who supports the idea of change [words indistinct]. It is a bad omen for the United States, its civilization and future, that every person who represents the idea of change in American society and the idea of equality for Negroes is struck by a bullet. This is an alarm signal for all the forces of progress and peace in the United States, AL HAMISHMAR concludes.

KOL HAAM says that Robert Kennedy was one of those U.S. citizens who contributed to the creation of a public opinion demanding an end to the Vietnam war. The paper declares that the attempt on his life was inspired by the same reactionary forces which want to prevent peace in Vietnam and halt social progress in the United States.

HATZOFE says the assassination attempt is a link in a chain of outbreaks of violence caused by sinister elements seeking to destroy American democracy and stop the processes of social progress in the United States. Israel, the paper adds, which sees in Robert Kennedy a faithful representative of American friendship for the Jewish people, shares the grief of the Kennedy family and the American people.

SHEARIM says there is no doubt that the condolences of the Israeli leaders reflect the sincere feelings of the Israeli people. The Israeli people are shaken by the tragedy of the American people and wish them success in overcoming these frustrations.

DAVAR says it is quite logical to seek a connection between the attempt on the life of Robert Kennedy and the assassination of his brother. The United States, DAVAR says, should reopen the investigation of the murder of John F. Kennedy.



## After Death Announced

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 6 Jun. 68 M

[Evening press review]

[Text] The evening papers devote their editorials to the assassination of Robert Kennedy. MAARIV says there is a link between this murder and the unbridled campaign of incitement by the Arab leaders and the Arab propaganda agencies, which are operating throughout the world. In the paper's opinion, there is a connection between the murder and the constant violence in the life of the Arab states, their lack of democracy, and their attacks against Jewish settlements.

MAARIV also discusses the epidemic of violence which has erupted in U.S. society, the tragedy of the Kennedy family, and the disruption of the presidential election campaign through this disastrous event. The paper emphasizes the virulence of the Arab propaganda campaign, which attacks without restraint everyone who is suspected of sympathizing with Israel. The paper warns that if the world continue to condone this campaign, then Robert Kennedy will not be its last victim.

YEDIOT AHARONOT expresses a similar opinion. The paper says the assassination of Robert Kennedy has no connection whatever with domestic relations in the United States, which were the background of the assassination of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King. The paper stresses that the cause of this murder must be sought in the Arab countries alone. YEDIOT AHARONOT says the murder is part of the same war in which Israeli women and children have been murdered year after year, a war which has now reached the United States. The paper says this should teach the United States that it is impossible to encourage murderers with money and arms on the assumption that they will only kill Jews in Israel. Conditions of war, just as conditions of peace, are not localized, the paper says. YEDIOT AHARONOT expresses hope that the United States has now learned this lesson and that the Soviet Union, too, may learn it.

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[JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY, Daily News Bulletin, June 6, 1968]  
**Jordanian Arab Held In Shooting Of Kennedy; Active In Student Anti-Israel Agitation**

LOS ANGELES, June 5 (JTA)--A 24-year-old Jerusalem-born Jordanian Arab student who was described as intensely interested in politics, has been identified and is being held as the assailant who shot Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in the Hotel Ambassador here early this morning. American and Israeli Jews, as well as Jews around the world, joined in the outpouring of grief and expressions of shock and disbelief over the shooting. Many organizations issued statements with these sentiments. There were prayers in many synagogues for Mr. Kennedy's recovery and hopes that he would be able to resume a normal, healthy life.

Arrested Man Was Active In Arab Student Organizations

The suspect, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, was born in Jerusalem on March 18, 1944, while the city was under British Mandate rule. He came to the United States on a Jordanian passport and was admitted as a permanent resident at New York City on Jan. 12, 1957. Police established that Sirhan was a student at Pasadena State College and was active in anti-Israel agitation of the Organization of Arab Students there. The fact that he had in his possession four \$100 bills and a schedule of Mr. Kennedy's June speaking engagements gave rise to suspicion that the shooting might have been organized as an Arab conspiracy. But in Washington, Attorney General Ramsey Clark said that preliminary investigation had not turned up any evidence of the existence of a conspiracy.

Sirhan, who is being held in lieu of \$250,000 bail on six counts of assault with intent to murder, is one of five brothers. One of them named Adel, with whom he reportedly lived, was said to be so prejudiced against Jews that when he discovered last week that he was working for Jews, he quit his job.

(In Washington, members of Congress speculated that the first anniversary of the Six-Day War and Mr. Kennedy's long-standing pro-Israel views motivated the assassination attempt.) The Arab gun-

man may also have been motivated by the Israeli-Jordan battle yesterday as well as the first anniversary of the Six-Day War, it was indicated. A witness to the shooting, Marcus McBroom, was reported to have quoted Sirhan as stating immediately after firing the shots that "I did it for my country (apparently meaning the State of Jordan), I love my country."

A neighbor in Pasadena, Cal., where Sirhan lived, said that he hated Mr. Kennedy, contender for the Democratic Presidential nomination, because he is rich, and "is a collaborator with Jews."

#### Arab Propagandist Says Act Reflects 'Political Frustration'

In New York, Dr. M.T. Mehdi, secretary of an Arab propaganda group, the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, told the press that Sirhan's act "reflects the frustrations of many Arabs with American politicians who have sold the Arabs of Palestine to the American Jewish voters." He said that Sirhan "may have been inflamed" by pro-Israel statements made in recent days by Mr. Kennedy. Last Saturday, in a television debate with Sen. Eugene McCarthy, Minnesota Democrat who is a Presidential nomination contender, Mr. Kennedy urged that the U.S. send 50 Phantom jet fighters to Israel.

Dr. Mehdi declared that "it is this disrespect for the human Arab person which brings about this violence." Speaking for the group he heads, Dr. Mehdi said, "We condemn the fact that Sen. Kennedy kowtowed to Zionist pressure to the detriment of American interests in the Middle East, as we condemn the act of Mr. Sirhan."

The Israel Embassy in Washington conveyed personal messages to Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, the New York Democrat's wife, from Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Foreign Minister Abba Eban. Eshkol said, "In the hours of anxiety and struggle for Sen. Robert Kennedy's life, my heartfelt prayers and wishes for his speedy recovery join those of countless others throughout the world. Only a few short months ago, I had the pleasure of meeting him and was greatly impressed by his intellectual alacrity and burning desire to serve his nation and mankind. May he soon be fully restored to his family."

A cable signed by Mr. Eban and his wife Suzy said "all our thoughts are with you in this hour of anguish." Maj. Gen. Itzhak Rabin, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, wired Mrs. Kennedy: "I wish to extend to you and your family our sense of shock and our fervent prayers for the complete recovery" of the Senator.

Commenting on the shooting, Morris B. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee and president-designate of Brandeis University said: "As we join the world in praying for the recovery of Sen. Kennedy, we urge that all Americans confront themselves with the meanings of hatred and violence...We must dedicate ourselves more than ever to the proposition that peaceful expression of difference must be allowed to prevail. If we permit ourselves to allow hate to spread unchecked into violence, we endanger nothing less than our democracy and freedom."

Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Reform), called for immediate legislation "which will not only severely limit sale of arms to private citizens, but which will go further and follow the British precedent by having American citizens turn in their arms." He said "America cannot pose as a society of peaceful intent when its citizenry acts as though it can gun its way through frustrations and disagreements."

## ASSASSINATION AND TERRORISM

[JEWISH OBSERVER. June 7, 1968]

The attempted killing of one man has suddenly overshadowed the first anniversary of a six-day war in which tens of thousands of people lost their lives. In the Middle East as elsewhere the shooting of Senator Robert Kennedy sickened and disturbed ordinary people. It came as a sharp reminder that the killing of one man is multiplied thousand-fold in international strife. It was also an ironic reminder that the death of many whose names are not known arouses less interest than the fate of a single individual known to all.

It would, of course, be too much to expect that the Kennedy shooting will have a sobering effect on the Middle East or any other region. Violence merely breeds violence. Nevertheless, this senseless act is also a reminder of the general senselessness of war and the criminality of those who insist on war. It also demonstrates that there is little difference between the politicians who insist on war as an instrument of policy and the unknown gunman who picks out his unsuspecting victim.

\* \* \*

In the case of the Middle East, the Kennedy shooting has an even more direct relevance. Reacting to the California shooting on Wednesday, the Egyptian Government said "to us a policy of violence—whether on an individual or international level—is hateful and inadmissible". And yet how strange it is that this same Government is arming, training and paying other unknown gunmen to pillage and kill as a deliberate act of policy. President Nasser has emerged as the chief instigator of the al-Fatah terrorist movement. He has sworn that "what is taken by force will be regained by force". On Thursday, his army took an oath to liberate Palestine or to die in the attempt.

There is little difference between this policy and the outrageous crime about which the Egyptian Government expressed its official sorrow. It is just as senseless and futile. To justify it by patriotism is to sink to the same level as Kennedy's assailant, who shouted out that "I did it for my country".

At this time in particular, therefore, the Egyptian leader would do well to remember an incident from his own autobiography, *The Philosophy of the Revolution*. In it, Nasser described how, as a member

of a nationalist gang, he took part in an unsuccessful bid to murder an Egyptian politician. Afterwards, he was stricken by horror and shame and swore that assassination was not the right method for nationalist struggle—"our method must be changed", he wrote.

This incident is not recalled to embarrass the Egyptian leader. The Zionist struggle, too, was not without its practitioners of violence. But the Zionist movement triumphed because its central ideal was constructive and not destructive. Its aim was not the conquest of other nations but the conquest of the desert and the swamp, to provide homes and land for the homeless.

\* \* \*

This is still the driving force of Israeli policy. Twelve months after the Six Day War, Israel still holds out its hand in friendship to the Arab States. If it had any other intentions, it is unlikely that it would have insisted so forcefully on conclusive negotiations. It is also unlikely that it would have refrained—as it has—from annexing the territory under its control. That the official policy has popular approval is confirmed by reliable polls of Israeli public opinion.

But the reaction in the Middle East to the Kennedy shooting also has immediate political overtones. It confirms that in the Arab world as well as in Israel the United States still enjoys great prestige and political influence. In recent weeks, the Egyptians have been paying unprecedented attention to American views. But this has only come about because of the continuing firmness with which the US has supported the Israeli position.

It is now more vital than ever that the United States, while keeping open all its diplomatic channels, should not urge Israel to settle for anything less than a true and lasting peace. A few months ago, Israel Defence Minister Dayan said that the key to war lay in Moscow but the key to peace lay in Washington. This formula is now being increasingly accepted in the Arab capitals. On the eve of the Kennedy shooting, President Johnson suggested yet another summit meeting with Soviet leaders. If this takes place, its success—at least on the Middle East—will be measured by the degree to which he can modify Soviet views. At present, Moscow—like Cairo—is encouraging gun law instead of negotiations.

[JERUSALEM POST

June 7, 1968]

# Kennedy — idol of the dispossessed

LOS ANGELES (Reuter). — Tragedy is no stranger to the Kennedy family. Senator Robert Francis Kennedy, determined to follow in his assassinated brother's footsteps to the White House, was felled — like his brother — by a bullet in the head in the midst of a crowd.

The eldest surviving son of the rich and powerful Kennedy dynasty, Bobby was one of the most popular and controversial figures in the United States. He inspired more love — and also more resentment — than probably any other contemporary American politician.

His eldest brother Joseph was killed in the Second World War. President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963. One sister was killed in a plane crash. Another is mentally retarded and his father, former Ambassador to Britain Joseph Kennedy, is partially paralysed following a series of strokes.

Energetic and wiry, with some of the glamour of the late President Kennedy, Bobby was known on Capitol Hill for his reputed sharpness, ruthlessness and contempt for defeatists.

Ever since declaring his presidential candidacy in March, the boyish-looking, tousle-haired Senator had been a possible target for a crazed gunman. As he criss-crossed the nation in his election drive, he was repeatedly mobbed by adoring crowds. Frequently his shirt was snatched as souvenirs, and, on one occasion he even lost a shoe to a memento-hunter.

In the Kennedy tradition, he scorned — even courted — physical danger. The cult of toughness which drove him to scale mountains, take icy plunges in the sea, and play touch football, drove him on towards the greatest prize in his nation, the Presidency of the United States.

Bobby became the idol of the nation's poor and dispossessed, commanding the hearts and votes of the Negro community. He was also the champion of American Indians, Mexican-Americans and other poverty-stricken groups.

Others regarded Kennedy as a dangerous figure, eaten up with personal ambition and bent on "buying" the presidency with his family's fortune. His father was once quoted as saying about him: "He's more like me than any of the others... he knows how to hate like I do."

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, on November 10, 1925, Bobby grew up in luxury to become an outspoken defender of civil rights. The assassination — as he was making a victory speech deploring violence after the California primary — came exactly two months following the assassination of Negro civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King.

Senator Kennedy — who had behind him more than 15 years of political activity, including a term as a U.S. Cabinet Member, entered this year's presidential campaign four days after fel-

low-Democrat Senator Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota won the New Hampshire primary, the first in the nation.

Before that, Kennedy was expected not to declare his candidacy before the 1972 presidential race. Kennedy's timing in plunging into the White House race was a source of anguish to many of his supporters and sparked allegations of opportunism. It also raised fears for his life.

He paid a price in last month's Oregon primary when McCarthy won 45 per cent of the democratic vote to his 39 per cent — the first time a Kennedy had lost a popular election since John first ran for Congress in 1946.

After his Oregon defeat, Kennedy indicated that, if he lost in California, he might quit the race altogether. The California primary was "the big one" — and he won it. Then he was cut down in the moment of victory.

Although his life had been threatened several times. There had not been any previous actual attempt to kill him.

A devout Roman Catholic, Kennedy married Ethel Skakel in 1950. They have 10 children — seven boys and three girls. His widow is expecting their eleventh.

Asked once whether the hectic life of political campaigning, speech-making and coping with large crowds was worth the exhaustion it brought, Kennedy was quoted as saying: "No sacrifices are involved. I might say it is the only life worth living for me... my reason for being alive."

Bobby Kennedy was only 27 when he managed his brother John's successful campaign for the Senate in 1952. He then served as chief counsel for a number of Senate committees, gaining valuable experience in legislative functions

of government.

In 1951, as a lawyer in the Justice Department, he aided the late Senator Joseph McCarthy's anti-communist drive. But within a year was chief counsel for the Democratic minority which opposed McCarthy's tactics. He served as Attorney-General under John Kennedy and remained in the Cabinet early in President Johnson's administration. He resigned in 1964 and was elected Senator for New York that same year.

Bobby's eldest brother Joseph was killed in a plane explosion in 1944 and the second eldest, President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.

Bobby's sister Kathleen was killed in a plane crash in 1948. His parents-in-law Mr. and Mrs. George Skakel, also died in a plane crash in 1955 and Edward, his youngest brother, today Senator for Massachusetts was badly injured in a plane crash in 1964.

Rosemary Kennedy, another of Bobby's sisters, has been mentally retarded since birth, and his brother-in-law George Skakel and his closest friend, Sean Markham, were both killed in a plane crash in 1966.

John and Jacqueline Kennedy's infant son, Patrick Bouvier Kennedy, died in 1963 a few hours after birth and Jacqueline had previously suffered two miscarriages.

# U.N. Council's tribute

[JERUSALEM POST June 7, 1968]

UNITED NATIONS (Reuter). — The Security Council, in an unprecedented gesture, paid tribute to Senator Kennedy early yesterday morning by adjourning a scheduled session and sending Mrs. Kennedy a message expressing "Shock and deep sorrow" at the shooting of her husband. The adjournment, before the Senator had died, cut short a session called at the urgent request of both Jordan and Israel following the clash on Wednesday.

U.S. Ambassador Arthur Goldberg, President of the Council this month, proposed at the outset that members approve the dispatch of a message of consolation to Mrs. Kennedy.

The text of the telegram, agreed upon privately before the meeting began, was as follows: "On behalf of the U.N. Security Council, and as its president during the month of June, I wish to convey to you the sense of shock and deep sorrow which all members feel at the grievous news of the attempt to assassinate your husband.

"Senator Kennedy's support for the U.N. and its purpose of peace is known and respected throughout the world. All members of the Council join in hoping and praying for him and in profound

sympathy for you and for the entire Kennedy family."

Delegate after delegate then paid tribute to the stricken presidential aspirant. Indian Ambassador Gopalaswami Parthasarathi said it was "not often in the political arena that we come across a man of Sen. Kennedy's sensitivity and compassion."

Lord Caradon of Britain said: "We in this council have a special reason to denounce violence in all its forms and manifestations." Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Jacob A. Malik said he had learned of the attack with "deep horror and surprise."

Diplomatic sources said that Arab delegates agreed in advance of the meeting to have their representative on the Council, Algerian Ambassador Tewfik Bouattoura, move for the adjournment after every member had paid his tribute to Sen. Kennedy.

These sources said that the fact that the alleged assassin is a Jordanian could have been consideration in the move. Jordanian Ambassador Muhammad H. El-Farra called for the Council session before the identity of the gunman was disclosed.

The Council set no new date to take up the Jordanian and Israeli complaints.

## The widow — outgoing and down-to-earth

[JERUSALEM POST

June 7, 1968]

WASHINGTON (Reuter). — Senator Kennedy's widow, Ethel, 40, mother of 10 children and expecting another in January, has long been considered more of a Kennedy than even the Kennedys themselves.

Unlike her sister-in-law, Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy — widow of assassinated President John Kennedy — the strong, athletic, extrovert Ethel was readily embraced as a member of the Kennedy clan when she married Robert almost 18 years ago.

Ethel caught on quickly to the spirit of competition which is so much a part of the famous family. Some years ago, commenting on her already large brood of children, she declared that she was determined to outdo her mother-in-law, Mrs. Rose Kennedy, the mother of nine. Last year, with the birth of Douglas Harri-man Kennedy, she fulfilled her pledge.

She has always been one of the most popular of the many Kennedy women with both close friends and the public, largely because of her vivacity and naturalness. Despite the fact that she was a member of one of America's wealthiest families even before she married, Ethel possesses a decidedly down-to-earth image.

For years she campaigned with her husband, and alone, in large city slum areas where onlookers never seemed to notice that her simple dresses were de-

signer items worth hundreds of dollars apiece.

Mrs. Kennedy's own family has experienced a series of tragedies. Both her parents and a brother were killed in an aircraft crash and her brother's widow choked to death last year.

Ethel presides over three homes, including a summer house at the Kennedy compound in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, and an apartment in New York City. The family spends most of its time at a rambling estate called "Hickory Hill" in Maclean, Virginia, near the nation's Capital.

Eight of the ten children, who range in age from one to 16 years, live at home, while the two eldest, Kathleen and Joseph, attend private schools in New England.

## 'Must die by June 5'—killer's diary

LOS ANGELES. — A notebook diary kept by the Kennedy shooting suspect, Sirhan Sirhan, carried the declaration, "Kennedy had to be assassinated before June 5, 1968," according to Mayor Samuel Yorty, of Los Angeles.

The Mayor said two notebooks handwritten by Sirhan were found in his Pasadena home and brought to the Rampart Street police station where he was being interrogated soon after the shooting.

Mr. Yorty said the two notebooks had

about 20 pages in each of anti-American reflections.

The Mayor said the notebooks dwelled at length on the conflict in the Middle East, Nasser and Israel. Mayor Yorty also identified a week-old press clipping found on Sirhan when he was arrested. He said it was a column on Kennedy's "hawkish attitude" toward the Arabs and "Dovish attitude" toward Vietnam.

The column accused the presidential candidate of inconsistency by maintaining America should keep her commitments in the Middle East and not in Asia.

### SAMMY DAVIS JR.:

## 80 per cent of

## U.S. is 'guilty'

[JERUSALEM POST June 7, 1968]

LONDON (Reuter). — About 80 per cent of America would want to kill Senator Robert Kennedy, American Negro entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. told a British television audience. He appeared on a late night news programme screened soon after he broke off a stage performance saying he was shocked at the shooting of his friend Senator Kennedy.

Mr. Davis was asked by a TV interviewer: "With your knowledge of the Kennedy family and of America, can you think of any person or group of people who would want to do this things?"

He replied: "Oh sure. About 80 percent of America, unfortunately."

He added: "Not that 80 per cent of America is bigoted. Don't misunderstand me. The percentage becomes the same when you don't care what happens, when you don't commit yourself to what's happening, when you see the wrong and nobody does anything about it."

Mr. Davis said none of the bigots or extremists preaching intolerance had ever been assassinated. He said: "Men who finance bigotry in America—men who say the evil things — they live on."

"In real life the men with the white hats always lose — the men with the good deeds always lose — the villains live on."

# ROBERT KENNEDY DIES; NATION IN MOURNING

[JERUSALEM POST June 7, 1968]

LOS ANGELES. — President Johnson yesterday proclaimed a day of national mourning for Senator Robert F. Kennedy, victim of an assassination that has stirred the nation's conscience. The Senator, who died at 1.44 a.m. (10.44 a.m. Israel time) in the Good Samaritan Hospital, is to be buried alongside his brother, President John F. Kennedy, in the Arlington National Cemetery in Washington on Saturday. Jerusalem-born Sirhan Sirhan, accused of the killing, was in jail under tight security.

President Johnson, in his proclamation, said: "The tragedy and the senseless violence of Robert F. Kennedy's death casts a deep shadow of grief across America and across the world." He ordered the U.S. flag be flown at half-staff throughout the nation, and set Sunday as the day of national mourning.

Senator Kennedy's body was flown from Los Angeles to New York yesterday in a special jet ordered by Mr. Johnson. Aboard were members of the Kennedy family and friends — among them the widows of three assassination victims. Family members included the Senator's 40-year-old wife Ethel, expecting her 11th child, and her three oldest children, the Senator's only surviving brother, Senator Edward Kennedy, Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, widow of President Kennedy, and his mother, Mrs. Rose Kennedy. Also aboard was Mrs. Coretta King, widow of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, who was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, only two months ago.

The flight of a presidential jet with the body of Sen. Kennedy to New York was delayed yesterday to avoid a controversy such as the one still surrounding the slaying of his brother in Dallas. Three pathologists flew from Washington to join the five-hour autopsy. There has been dispute over the accuracy of the John Kennedy official autopsy report.

At Sen. Kennedy's bedside when he died were Edward, Ethel and Jacqueline Kennedy, his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Smith, his sister Mrs. Pat Lawford, and Thomas, 17, the oldest of his 10 children.

In Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, Sen. Kennedy's father, former Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy, wept silently when visited by Richard Cardinal Cushing, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston said. "He cannot speak, but we got through to him with no difficulty. He understood

everything I was saying to him," the Cardinal told newsmen outside the Kennedy family compound. "He let a few tears drop," the Cardinal said of the father, who suffered a stroke which impaired his speech 6½ years ago.

#### LIE IN STATE

In New York, the Senator's body will be taken to St. Patrick's Cathedral where it will lie in state today. A Requiem Mass will be celebrated in St. Patrick's on Saturday. New York Police are already making security arrangements, likely to be the tightest in the city's history, for American and foreign dignitaries at the service.

News of Sen. Kennedy's death was given by a grim-faced aide, Frank Mankiewicz, to reporters in the temporary press room set up in the nurses' dining room at the hospital. He stood with head bowed before a battery of television cameras for about a minute and then said: "I have a statement which I will make at this time." He then read the death announcement.

The haggard aide was asked for the specific cause of death. He looked up numbly. "The gunfire attack," he said.

Mr. Mankiewicz said the fatal shot was "the bullet that went into the head near the right ear." That slug entered Sen. Kennedy's brain, and surgeons conducted a three-hour, 40-minute operation early Wednesday to remove all but a fragment. Sen. Kennedy would have been cruelly disabled had he survived. (Reuter, UPI, AP)

[JERUSALEM POST June 7, 1968]

### U.S. Jews deeply concerned

By CHARLES FENYVESI

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — In a nation stunned by the tragedy of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's assassination, Jews are more stunned than others.

The "Jewish angle" — the possible intent of the assassin to kill a friend of Israel and the reported "virulent anti-Semitism" of the suspect — is in the focus of attention here.

The press has been careful not to put too much emphasis on the national origin and the possible nationalistic motivation of the suspect.

The State Department was in close touch with the Los Angeles Police Wednesday. Its advice may have been behind the gradual way in which the news of the suspect's identity was announced. First the police said that the suspect would not speak. Then it was disclosed that the suspect was talking, lucidly and volubly, but not about the shooting. Officials refused to reveal what he discussed. Reporters were told that the suspect is Jerusalem-born. This caused a flood of anxious telephone calls to Jewish organizations inquiring if the man could be Jewish.

One hour later, it was revealed that the suspect had been born in the former Jordanian sector of Jerusalem. But Mayor Yorty declined to identify the suspect's national origin or religious affiliation. Later, reporters were informed that the suspect is a Christian Arab and that an article calling Sen. Kennedy a pro-Israel "hawk" was found on his person.

[JERUSALEM POST June 7, 1968]

### CONDOLENCE

### NOTES SENT

President Shazar, Prime Minister Eshkol and Foreign Minister Eban yesterday expressed their condolences to Mrs. Ethel Kennedy and U.S. officials on the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Mr. Shazar's cable, addressed to President Johnson, said: "For myself and for all the people of Israel bowed by grief for the brilliant and precious life so untimely and savagely cut down, I send profound sympathy to you and the American people and would deeply appreciate transmission to Mrs. Kennedy and the family of our sorrowful condolence in their incredible tragic loss."

Mr. Eshkol, in a telegram to Mrs. Kennedy, said: "Let us all pray that the bullet which snuffed out the young life, so full of promise, of your beloved husband, will shock mankind into the realization that blind hatred, leading to crude violence, must not remain the mental food of the young anywhere."

The Prime Minister also cabled President Johnson that the killing "compels mankind and you to do all in its power to exorcise the evil spirit of hatred and violence." Mr. Eshkol sent a separate cable of condolence to Mr. Johnson on the loss of the crew of the nuclear submarine Scorpion, saying that Israel knew through the Dakar tragedy what a "loss of this kind" means.



# Sirhan under tight guard

*'Gentle, quiet  
and humble'*

[JERUSALEM POST June 7, 1968]

By ARI RATH and ANAN SAFADI  
Jerusalem Post Reporters

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the suspected 23-year-old slayer of Senator Kennedy, was a "very gentle, polite, quiet and humble boy, interested mainly in books. It's beyond comprehension how he could have committed such a terrible act at his own initiative without having been put up to do this by some other people."

This was consensus of statements made repeatedly yesterday to *The Jerusalem Post* by his 52-year-old father, Bishara Salameh Sirhan, of Taiybe village near Ramallah; by the Headmaster of the Martin Luther Preparatory school in the Old City, Mr. Salim Awad, where Sirhan Sirhan studied for five years from 1951 until 1956; and by the Mukhtar of Taiybe, Mr. Faleh Bajes Mu'addi.

Seated yesterday morning on a divan in the living room of his two-storey white stone house in the hilltop town of Taiybe,

mid-way between Ramallah and Jericho, the father at first was reluctant to say anything. He had had a sleepless night, he said. Israel security officers and the Jerusalem correspondent of the "New York Times" — who had been tipped off by his head-office in New York — had awakened him at 2 a.m. He was moved to talk only after being shown the radiophoto of his son being taken into custody which appeared in yesterday's *Post*. He sat in stunned silence, visibly moved, then put his fingers on his son's face, saying firmly, "That is my boy, I recognize him."

Repeating every so often, "I don't understand it," the father said that as far as he knew his son had been studying in Los Angeles. However he had not heard from him for a "long time." Speaking correct, if halting English, the father, a Greek Orthodox, declined to be drawn into any speculation as to what could have been his son's motives. He said: "I am not a politician. I don't live in America now, I live in Israel, how could I possibly know."

But he went on to describe his son's "gentle character," how he had always preferred reading to playing outside, yet was kind to his friends and classmates. How he went to church every Sunday, while in the States as well, almost without fail. "There were never rough games at home, with toy rifles or pistols. Mostly books."

"My son was a good Christian all his life. He could not have done such a thing on his own. Someone must have pushed him to it."

The father said he was terribly sorry for what had happened, both to Senator Kennedy and to his own son. He took down the Washington address of the Kennedy family, saying he would send a cable to them as soon as he could.

Speaking again of Sirhan Sirhan, the next to the youngest of his four sons, all of whom were born in Jerusalem and have been in the U.S. since 1957, the father recalled how in his early school days his teachers always commented on his intelligence, predicting a great future for him.

Meticulously dressed in a grey tweed jacket, grey trousers, with white shirt and blue tie and a white *khafiye* with black rings, the father said he lived all alone in the 10-room, rather new house, which he started building after his return from the U.S. some five years ago. From the early morning hours, scores of newsmen, photographers and TV crews had converged on the small, normally quite forgotten village. At first Bishara Salameh Sirhan had locked himself behind the iron doors of his second-storey flat, but then reluctantly agreed to let *The Jerusalem Post* in on condition that no photographs were taken.

Just as we were about to leave, the father opened his Bible in Arabic, pointing to a blue-pencilled passage and said: "This is the 'Taura', (the Arabic word for the Bible), this sums up my belief. It is also written on a plaque outside on my house." It was chapter three, verse 13 in Exodus: "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I HATH SENT ME UNTO YOU."

While talking quite freely about the son, the conversation always came to a stop when the father was asked about facts regarding his past. Some of the reasons for this silence were offered later by the mukhtar of Tayibe, Mr. Mu'addi, who filled in details regarding the assassin's father and his family.

It appears, according to the mukhtar, that the father has strong, although openly unknown, links with the Jehovah Witnesses sect. He and other village notables are certain that the father receives some sort of financial support from the sect in addition to the money which one of his sons, Sa'adu Adel, who is now called Joe in California, sends from the States from time to time. It is this second son who also keeps up the family's only contact with the father.

(Jehovah's witnesses, the missionary sect with which both Sirhan's parents appear to have been connected, was banned in Jordan in 1959. But it is believed to have continued operating in the Old City.)

The mukhtar said he was quite convinced that Sirhan, Bashira Sirhan could not have done what he did on his own, "unless another bad man influenced him for a lot of money." The Sirhan boys were always kept close in line by their father, who let them have very little money, he explained. The family's link with the Jehovah Witnesses actually began much earlier, Mr. Mu'addi said, since it was their sect who helped the mother to go first to the U.S. in 1957. The four sons and one daughter, Aida, who is said to have died in the U.S. four years ago, followed a few months later, with the father coming over last.

Another close friend of the family added that the mother had actually left for the States in 1957 in the wake of a family dispute. When the children followed her, the husband filed a divorce suit in the Greek Orthodox Religious Court. He withdrew it later, after deciding to go to the U.S. himself the same year, but actually he never joined his family in the

States and lived most of his six years there in New Jersey. The *mukhtar* added that another part of the Sirhan family lived in Texas.

the Sirhans moved to Jerusalem after their marriage in the mid-forties, when the father worked as a mechanic in the Mandatory Public Works Department, and later in the Jordanian P.W.D. After the 1948 war they were allocated a modest flat in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, which was close to the Martin Luther school where some of the children studied.

Before leaving Tayibe, the *mukhtar* asked to apologize through the press for what had happened to the Kennedy family and to the American people. While some of the village youngsters thought that the assassin was an "Arab nationalist," Mr. Mu'adi insisted once more that there must have been the hand of some "other bad people."

#### SCHOOL HEADMASTER

The headmaster of the Lutheran preparatory school in the Old City, where the suspected killer was a pupil, said yesterday that Sirhan's record showed he was a better than average pupil. Mr. Salim Awad, the headmaster, said he himself had been a teacher at the time and Sirhan had not been in his class. However, he remembered him as a quiet boy who diligently attended Sunday school. "I do not believe he was the kind of boy who would have initiated such a crime." He said when he heard the name over the news broadcast Wednesday night, he immediately remembered the family. Two other brothers, Adel (Joe) and Munir had also been pupils in the school. All of them are registered with the additional name of Ratas appearing before the family name of Sirhan. According to the school record, the suspect's

birthdate is October 30, 1945. The reason they came to this school, although belonging to the Greek Orthodox Church, was that it was near their home in the Jewish Quarter. He had once visited the Sirhan home in the Jewish Quarter and found that it was "very poor," said the headmaster.

He remembered the father at the time as being unemployed.

Running his finger down the neat, handwritten records of the years when the suspect was a pupil, Mr. Awad said the boy's marks declined slightly in the higher grades. In 1956, the last year he was in the school, he was seventh in a class of 16.

It is understood that the F.B.I. has asked the Israel Security Service for information on the accused's family background.

## Girl suspect is sought

[JERUSALEM POST June 7, 1968]

LOS ANGELES. — Police said yesterday they had issued an all points bulletin for a possible woman suspect in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Police said they still believed only one person was involved in the shooting, but did not want to overlook any possibility.

The suspect, Sirhan B. Sirhan, 24, was held under maximum security, guarded by a deputy in his jail cell. He was charged with murder and an indictment will be sought before the Grand Jury Monday.

The bulletin was issued Wednesday after a Kennedy campaign worker told police that a woman in polka dot dress ran from the Ambassador Hotel early Wednesday at about the time an assassin fired eight shots at Sen. Kennedy. The woman was described as a white female, 23 to 27, wearing a white dress with black polka-dots.

"A girl came running down the steps and said, 'We shot him!'" Miss Sandy Serrano said. A man allegedly was with the girl.

"Who did you shoot? Who did you shoot?" Miss Serrano said she asked.

"We shot Senator Kennedy," was the answer, she reported.

Miss Serrano said she had seen the pair earlier in the evening with another man, but the latter was not with them when they left the hotel.

Officials of the American Civil Liberties Union (A.C.L.U.) said the A.C.L.U. had agreed to help Sirhan obtain a private attorney. But they said the organization would not provide representation itself. "I made it clear to him that my seeing him this morning for the A.C.L.U. was solely

in connection with his constitutional rights."

Sirhan, who is to be taken before the Grand Jury Monday is in a secret security cell in the Los Angeles County Jail. Police Chief Tom Reddin said, "The security is so tight there that only the sheriff and a few guards know where he is. Even I don't know exactly where he is."

Chief Reddin and District Attorney Evelle J. Younger also were careful to say nothing about the case that could make it more difficult to obtain an impartial jury.

Sirhan had briefly worked as a "hot walker," leading racehorses during training at Hollywood Park Race Track near here. "Since I wasn't interested in politics I would not discuss it," an assistant trainer at the race track said. "But he was violently pro-Jordan and anti-Israeli."

Pasadena, California, police said complaints of disturbing the peace had been lodged against Sirhan Sirhan, but he had "never been booked, jailed or arrested by Pasadena Police."

John Weidner Jr., a former employer of Sirhan, told interviewers that Sirhan "told me that when he was a child, he saw members of his family killed by Jews and he had to flee Jordan when he was a child."

"During a number of lengthy conversations, Sirhan talked freely and with interest — until asked who he was and anything about Kennedy," said Chief Reddin. He was "very cool, very calm, very stable and quite lucid," the chief said, but any time the questions got around to Sen. Kennedy he would say, "I prefer to remain incommunicado."

The family home is in nearby Pasadena. Another neighbour, Mrs. Anna Blakeslee, said she and another woman used to visit with Mary Sirhan, Sirhan Sirhan's mother.

"She is a neat woman, a good mother," Mrs. Blakeslee said. "She works with the church with children and he is a good looking boy, a fine boy... He must have been insane all of a sudden to do this thing. I can't believe he would do it."

The family of the accused assassin of Sen. Kennedy sent a telegram to the Kennedy family yesterday, saying "We pray that God will make peace, really peace, in the hearts of people." The telegram was signed by the accused killer's mother.

[JERUSALEM POST June 7, 1968]

### AFTER MIDNIGHT

Twelve hours after Robert Kennedy's death, the U.S. House of Representatives yesterday passed a bill forbidding the sale of handguns by inter-state mail order. The bill goes now to President Johnson.

A Jordan refugee rally, planned for London's Trafalgar Square on Sunday, was cancelled by the organizers last night because of Senator Robert Kennedy's death.

## A GRIEF SHARED BY ALL

[JERUSALEM POST June 7, 1968]

THE bereavement of the Kennedy family and the American people was shared yesterday throughout the world. No family, and no set of political leaders in our generation, has so captured the imagination and interest of all people as have the Kennedys. Thus in a very real sense the grief of the Kennedy family has become the grief of us all.

For the American people the assassination of the Senator has once again raised agonizing questions concerning the prevalence of violence in the society and the need to take more effective steps to safeguard the nation's leaders from the pathological few.

It has also thrown into momentary confusion the outlook for a presidential competition which all Americans perceive as coming at a critical juncture in the life of their society. Perhaps the tragedy may of itself serve to heal some of what President Johnson has termed the "divisiveness" prevalent in the U.S. — healing not only political wounds, but the wounds of racial strife. It was precisely this aim with which Senator Kennedy was so closely identified, and it was in the service of this aim and in honour of the Senator that the widow of Martin Luther King yesterday joined the Kennedy family in the Presidential plane which brought Senator Kennedy's body to New York.

It is of little solace to the American people that the assassin was apparently motivated by a political fanaticism which has no direct relevance to the social or political issues of their society. The absurdity of the murder only heightens rather than lessens the tragedy.

Understandably the killer's Jordanian origin has severely discomfited the Arab world, and the hoary canard of a "Zionist plot" has already been trotted out. But perhaps just this once, even Arab propagandists could call a moratorium on their desperate absurdities.

## Palestinian leader's reaction to death

[JERUSALEM POST June 7, 1968]

Mr. Anwar Nusseibeh, former Jordanian Defence Minister and Jordanian Ambassador to London, who resides in East Jerusalem, yesterday expressed deep shock at Senator Kennedy's death, and at the same time voiced his surprise at the statement made in New York on Wednesday by Mohammed T. Mehdi, Secretary-General of the Action Committee on American-Arab relations.

(Mehdi had said that Sirhan "may have been inflamed" by Senator Kennedy's recent pro-Israel statements.)

Mr. Nusseibeh's statement said:

The loss of Senator Kennedy is a loss not only to the U.S., but to the whole world and the democratic system, and to the hopes which the younger generation have for a better future for all people everywhere. What shocked me most is that the assassin should be the man who is accused.

Without wishing to comment on a matter that is still sub judice I thought that we Palestinians, Jordanians and Arabs in general should be the last people to wish any harm to come to a statesman of the calibre and quality of the late Senator Kennedy. I can only express deep regret and wish to convey heartfelt condolences to the American people and in particular to the Kennedy family.

### YESTERDAY'S PRESS:

[JERUSALEM POST]

## Assassination

[June 7, 1968]

Davar (Histadrut): "The entire civilized world is united in shock and bewilderment over the criminal attack on the life of Senator Robert Kennedy... It is logical to look for a tie between the attempt to kill Robert Kennedy and the murder of his brother."

Kol Ha'am (Communist): "Robert Kennedy was among those Americans who promoted a public opinion which demanded an end to the war in Vietnam. Those who sent his assassins, who also killed President Kennedy, wished to put an end to the policy of peaceful coexistence."

# SHOCK AND GRIEF AROUND THE WORLD

[JERUSALEM POST June 7, 1968]

Shock and grief went hand-in-hand around the world yesterday, when the news came that Sen. Robert F. Kennedy had died of wounds inflicted by an assassin's bullet.

As radio and television stations broke into their programmes to carry the first news flash and switched to sombre music, messages of sympathy and tribute began pouring out to mark what President Johnson called "a time of tragedy and loss."

The U.S. Senate met within hours of Sen. Kennedy's death to authorize Secret Service protection for major presidential candidates. The move broke a long-standing tradition that the Senate does not transact business on the day a member dies. Senate Democratic leader Mike Mans-

field said the Senate would stand adjourned today as a "further mark of respect" for the Senator. He also expressed his personal feelings: "There is nothing I can say. I'm overcome, just overcome."

In a rare gesture, Pope Paul personally signed cables to President Johnson and Mrs. Ethel Kennedy. To Mr. Johnson he expressed condolences on "the loss of an outstanding public servant." The Pontiff will personally celebrate Mass for Sen. Kennedy today.

Parliaments sat in shocked silence when the news was announced. People on the streets shook their heads sadly over newspapers with such headlines as "He's dead." For many, their feelings were summed

up by the speaker of the Dutch Lower House, Dr. Frans Van Thiel, who said Sen. Kennedy had fallen "as a hero in his fight for the good in the U.S. and for his ideals, which are ours."

A book of condolences was opened at the U.S. mission to the U.N., and among the first signers were Secretary-General U Thant and Ralph J. Bunche, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs and the top-ranking American in the U.N. Secretariat. At the outset of the meeting of the General Assembly's main Political Committee, the chairman, Ismail Fahmy of Egypt, said Sen. Kennedy's death was "a great loss to the noble causes for which he stood."

U.S. Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg received a letter signed by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily V. Kuznetsov and Soviet Ambassador Jacob A. Malik extending "to you and through you to the Government and people our profound condolences on the untimely and tragic death of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy."

Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr., whose own husband was assassinated just over two months ago, flew to Los Angeles to comfort Mrs. Kennedy. "How many husbands, how many fathers and how many sons must die before we as men, women, youths and children — before we as a nation — will rise up in righteous indignation and demand an end to senseless violence?" Mrs. King said. She said Sen. Kennedy's death has deprived the nation "of one of its greatest champions of freedom, human dignity and peace."

Senator Eugene J. McCarthy, one of Sen. Kennedy's rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination, proposed "quiet mourning, our rejection of violence and reprisal, and by offering renewed dedication to the cause of peace and reconciliation which Robert Kennedy served."

Former Vice-President Richard M. Nixon, top Republican presidential candidate, said Sen. Kennedy's death "is a terrible tragedy both for a family and a nation which have known too many such tragedies in recent times." (AP, UPI, Reuter).

Arab reaction:

[JERUSALEM POST June 7, 1968]

**Regret mixed  
with charges of  
Zionist plot**

BEIRUT.— The Arab world reacted with regret yesterday to the news that the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was a Jordanian. The attack was deplored, but some said the Senator paid for what is regarded as America's pro-Israel policy in the Middle East.

The Beirut newspaper "Al-Kifah" charged the assassination was a Jewish plot to prevent Robert Kennedy from reaching the White House where he would have discovered that "the Jews were behind" the murder of his brother, President John F. Kennedy.

Although most newspapers here used the suspect's name, Cairo Radio did not mention it in its early morning newscast. The Syrian press also omitted it. In Amman, knots of people gathered at street corners to read newspaper headlines splashing the story.

In Washington, Jordanian Ambassador Abdul Hamid Sharaf Wednesday night called on the State Department and expressed Jordan's regrets. He met with Assistant Secretary of State Lucius Battle. It also was announced that King Hussein has sent his condolences.

The Embassy of Jordan issued a statement expressing "shock" over the incident and stating, "We deeply regret that the suspect appears to be someone of Jordanian origin." The Embassy statement went on to say that the Government of Jordan "strongly condemns this criminal act."

"It's a Zionist plot," an office worker in Cairo, Ahmed el-Haisha, said. "Sirhan is an Israeli agent because Sen. Kennedy was more in favour of the Arabs than (President Lyndon) Johnson."

"This will be very harmful to the Arab cause because it will lose the Arabs whatever sympathy we had in the U.S. and will be used by the Zionists for propaganda against us," Cairo store manager Mohammed Gamal said. "It is unfortunate Sen. Kennedy was shot but even worse that his attacker was an Arab."

Ramzi Rafaat, a young American-educated Jordanian Government employee said, "Sirhan went to the States when he was 13. He is a product of American, not Arab society."

A Jordanian businessman who refused to give his name said, "You cannot blame him (Sirhan). Being from Jerusalem he probably lost his home, his land and maybe even his loved ones because of American-backed Zionist aggression."

(AP, UPI, INA.)

[JERUSALEM POST June 7, 1968]

**Soviet press admits  
assailant's origin**

MOSCOW (UPI). — The Soviet press reported for the first time last night that the accused assailant of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was a "Palestinian Arab" and chided U.S. newspapers for stressing this fact. The defensive tone of the report in "Izvestia," recalled the reaction in 1963 when it was learned that Lee Harvey Oswald had lived in Russia. "Izvestia" revoiced its opinion — which is treated as fact here — that President John F. Kennedy was the victim of a right-wing plot.

"Now the play is on the Arab origin of the assailant, on testimony about his anti-Israeli inclinations," it said. "Several segments of the press try to direct the indignation of American public opinion into certain specific channels," it wrote.

# RFK and the Middle East

[JERUSALEM POST

June 7, 1968]

NEW YORK (Reuter). — The Israel-Arab question loomed large in Senator Robert Kennedy's recent election campaign, just a few days before he was shot and fatally wounded in Los Angeles.

The man held for the shooting, which took place exactly one year after the outbreak of the Six Day War, was a 24-year-old immigrant of Jordanian descent, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

On May 26, while campaigning for the Oregon primary election, the Senator donned a skullcap to address the congregation at Neveh Shalom Synagogue in Portland. Calling for the U.S. to sell Israel 50 Phantom jet aircraft, which it has been seeking, he said: "The Soviets have sent supersonic fighters to the Arabs. Soviet planes and pilots they have trained are on Arab soil. Forty Soviet warships are in the Mediterranean, and their advisers are in Arab nations."

The Senator told his audience that the U.S. could not permit such an imbalance, adding that it should sell without delay "the 50 Phantom jets she has so long been promised." Kennedy said: "We all desire an end to the arms race, but it cannot be unilateral, for such a course promises only more aggression and the threat of yet another bloody conflict."

On May 20, speaking to another Jewish congregation at Temple Isaiah, in Los Angeles, the Senator called for negotiations to bring peace to the Middle East. "This negotiation must start with a clear recognition of Israel's existence by the Arab states — an absolute commitment to respect her territorial integrity — and full guarantees of all international rights of passage."

Kennedy's last public comment on the Middle East situation came last Saturday, during a televised confrontation with one of his rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination, Senator Eugene McCarthy.

Referring to America's international responsibilities, he said: "I do think that we have some commitments around the globe. I think we have a commitment to Israel, for instance, that had to be kept."

In answer to a reporter's question on the same TV programme, he again referred to the question of supplying 50 Phantom jets to Israel... "I've said that we had to at least help them rebuild the strength that they lost in the recent war. If that means 50 jets, well, I'm for 50 jets."

Senator Kennedy made frequent other public references to the Middle East situation. Last June, at an address at New York's Fordham University, he spoke of Israel as "a tiny outpost of Western culture and ideals." He added that its "arms and courage have allowed this tiny nation with less than the population of (the New York Borough of) Queens to defeat the armies of nations with total population of millions."

He went on: "This gallant democracy, this nation of survivors of history's greatest example of man's capacity for senseless cruelty to his fellow man, cannot be allowed to succumb to the threats and assaults of her neighbours."

But he also told an audience of New Yorkers who visited Washington last June: "Let us hold out our hand of friendship to the Arab peoples, so long living in poverty and disease and misery, so long the tools of irresponsible propaganda, so long the greatest losers from the military adventures of their leaders."

Kennedy's personal links with the Middle East were first forged long before he entered politics and became a Senator from New York, with its large Jewish community. Soon after graduating from Harvard in 1948, he had a job for a time as a correspondent with the "Boston Post" and covered the 1948-49 War of Independence.

According to one account, he had a narrow brush with death on the road to Jerusalem.

In "R.F.K. — the man who would be President," a book generally unsympathetic to the Senator, author Ralph de Tolo-dano wrote: "Preparing to get a lift from Tel Aviv in a convoy to Jerusalem he ran into a tank captain who offered him alternate accommodation. He chose the tank, when he arrived at Jerusalem he learned that the convoy had been wiped out by the Arabs."

## PRESS SCORES ARABS OVER KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Jun 68 M

[From the morning press review]

[Text] Most morning papers expressed deep sorrow at the death of Senator Robert Kennedy and discuss the political significance of the fact that the murderer is a Palestinian Arab.

HAARETZ says that even if it is found that the murderer is an isolated person not supported by any organization this will be no reason to treat the matter lightly. The example set by Sirhan may inflame others--not only Arabs and not only in the United States, criminologists claim that every successful crime arouses a desire to imitate the criminal. The paper stresses that political murder has always been popular in the Arab world and that one should give attention to the possibility that other blood-thirsty fanatics may choose not only the United States as their field of action. HAARETZ concludes that the security arrangements for the protection of Israel's leaders must be reexamined and improved.

HAYOM says that one cannot overlook the effect of inflammatory Arab propaganda as a cause of acts like that committed by Sirhan. The paper is certain that the Jordanian representatives in the UN Security Council were aware of this connection. HAYOM says that this explains their request that the debate on their complaint should not be held on the day Senator Kennedy was shot, although they pretended that they requested this to honor the late senator.

HAYOM says that the daily and most important theme of Arab propaganda is the call for war. It is not surprising, the paper adds, that the assassin in California committed murder, because he was convinced that he would thus make his contribution to the jihad.

HAMODIA says that the murder case may still become a pretext for inflaming anti-Israeli feelings among the U.S. public.

SHEARIM hopes that the murder will impress on the world the hysterical nature of Arab propaganda.

## FOREIGN MINISTER PROTESTS ARTICLE IN LE MONDE

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Jun '68 M

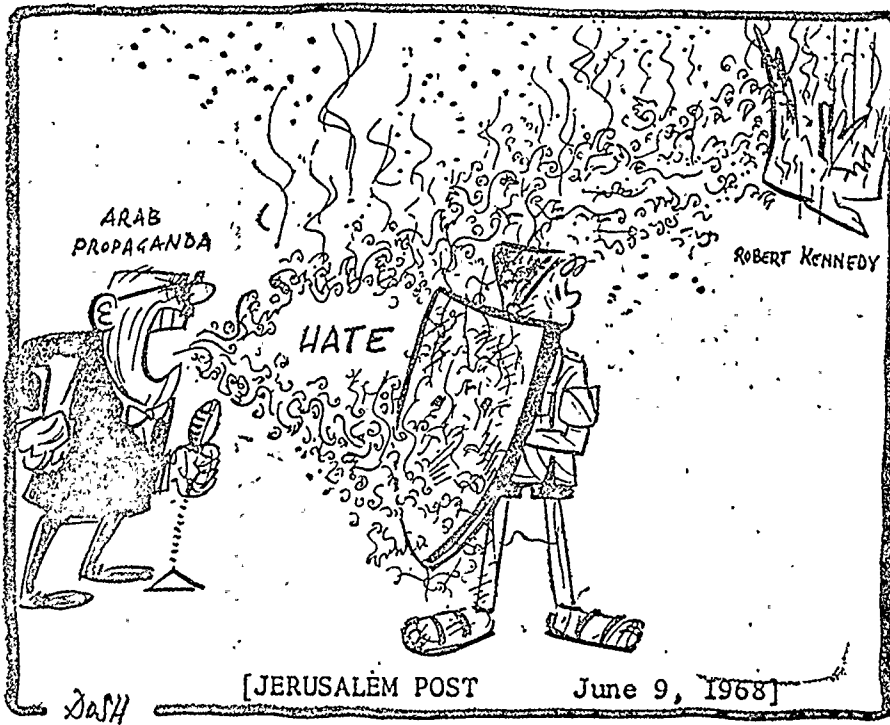
[Text] Our Jerusalem correspondent reported today that Israel's Ambassador in France Walter Eytan has been instructed to protest sharply to the editorial board of the Paris paper LE MONDE about an article published yesterday in connection with the assassination of Senator Kennedy. The article alleged that Israel's policy was a cause of the senator's assassination.

In reply to a question by our correspondent Haim Gil about the LE MONDE article, Foreign Minister Abba Eban said today that the assumptions on which this article is based are terrible. The assumption is that it is not unnatural for one opposing Israel's destruction and supporting its right to peace and security within recognized and secure borders to become the victim of assassination. Eban said the fact that a famous newspaper like LE MONDE publishes such shocking things is a very depressing event in the history of the press. We are lucky, the foreign minister concluded, that this is an exceptional reaction and that most papers condemn not the victim, but the crime and the man who committed it.

Eban also spoke of the late senator's personality and said his support for Israel's right to security and peace was an inseparable part of his general philosophy.



## ANOTHER VICTIM



By arrangement with "Ma'ariv"

## FRIDAY'S PRESS

[JERUSALEM POST]

## Kennedy

[June 9, 1968]

Davar (Histadrut): "Robert Kennedy was a young energetic man of wide horizons, fully conscious of his mission and could have made great contributions both to his country and to the world. The assassin decided differently. Was he alone?"

Ha'aretz (non-party): "Sirhan's example may enthuse others — not necessarily Arabs, but also Arabs, and not only in the U.S. Political murder has always been acceptable in the Arab world and there is ample evidence of this fact in the countries bordering on Israel."

Hayom (Gahal): "War cries are daily heard from all propaganda organs of the Arab states. No wonder that the murderer in California acted out of the conviction that he was contributing to the so-called 'Holy War'."

Al Hamishmar (Mapam): "Senator Kennedy — with all his declared sympathy for Israel — was not the ideal personification of pro-Israel zeal. Willy-nilly one must therefore reach the conclusion that the Israel-Arab background was artificially foisted upon the assassination."

## EBAN TRIBUTE

[JERUSALEM POST June 9, 1968]

Expressing the feelings of the people of Israel on the day of mourning of the American people over the death of Sen. Robert Kennedy, Foreign Minister Abba Eban said last night in Jerusalem: "Ours is a deep feeling of sympathy and identification with the bereaved Kennedy family, with the American people who lost one of its outstanding personalities and brilliant leaders and with all those in America and in the world whose rights for equality, for dignity and for the opportunity to alleviate their lives, Sen. Kennedy defended so devotedly."

The support of Sen. Kennedy of Israel's right to enjoy peace and security, Mr. Eban said, was in complete accord with all the ideals which he supported. Sen. Kennedy's careful expressions with regard to Israel, belonged to the liberal consensus throughout the world: they were identical to the ideas of his brother, the late President, and to the principles expressed time and again since last summer by President Johnson and his representative in the U.N.

Answering questions by journalists in regard to the editorial of last Friday by "Le Monde" on the Kennedy assassination, where it refers to Israel, Mr. Eban said emphatically that "this editorial belongs to the most shocking literature of incitement. The bases upon which that editorial leans are appalling."

It seems, Mr. Eban said, that in contrast to the shock of the entire enlightened mankind over the criminal assassination of Sen. Kennedy, some interested circles attempt to praise the assassination and the assassin and thus defend the shedding of blood as a means of expressing a political idea.

("Le Monde" said editorially that the Kennedy murder by a Palestinian nationalist, whether on his own initiative or otherwise, has a symbolic value, one year after Israel's war victory and 20 years after the establishment of Israel.

(It added that never has frustration and hate been so bitter among a people who believe that their homeland was stolen. "Le Monde" said that Sirhan is one of the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians "who were forced to leave their homes to find refuge in a neighbouring country or in a strange land. Kennedy's pro-Israel statements, and his calls for U.S. weapons for Israel were enough to exasperate this young man who like others of his countrymen dream of nothing but revenge and liberation," it stated.)

The Israel Ambassador in Paris, Mr. Walter Eytan, was instructed by the Foreign Ministry to lodge a formal protest with the editors of "Le Monde" over the editorial.

## 'The Arab Issue'

[JERUSALEM POST June 9, 1968]

By S.L. KENEN

POST Near East Report Bureau

WASHINGTON. — An admonition to Americans not to exploit the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy for political purposes was published in the "Washington Post" Friday. It apparently reflects a desire on the part of many Americans to submerge the Arab-Israel controversy in the torrent of eulogy and editorial which now floods the American scene.

Almost all Members of Congress avoided reference to the Arab-Israel war in their speeches on Capitol Hill and there is an undercurrent of apprehension that the tragedy may be used in the service of propaganda and in the incitement of new animosity.

The "Post's" editorial said: "Those who are attempting to exploit the Arab link for a political purpose — either to demean the Arabs or to demonstrate the folly of American support for Israel — are guilty of a mischievous cynicism. They serve neither the memory of Senator Kennedy nor the continuing American interest in peace in the Middle East."

Up to now there have been no statements from American Jewish organizations pointing accusing fingers at the Arab propaganda apparatus. For their part, Arab diplomats have put out declarations in an attempt to repudiate the accused, Sirhan B. Sirhan.

Whether the issue will be avoided is doubtful. A few hours after the shooting, veteran Arab propagandist Dr. Mohammed T. Mehdi was quoted as saying, Sirhan "May have been inflamed by Senator Kennedy's backing of the Israel cause." And in Los Angeles, Mayor Sam Yorty disclosed that police found notebooks in Sirhan's home which praised President Nasser, attacked Sen. Kennedy and, it is charged, declared that Sen. Kennedy should not be allowed to live after June 5.

In Washington, diplomats who are concerned about the impact of the assassination on U.S.-Arab relations, were critical of Mehdi's statement, believing that it was a blunder from the Arab point of view. Nor were they happy about the few dispatches which came from Arab capitals, such as "Al Kifah's" article which called the assassination a "Jewish plot to keep Kennedy from the White House where he would have discovered that the Jews were behind the murder of President John F. Kennedy."

The press has published many interviews with persons who knew Sirhan in Los Angeles. A number of them have made it clear that Sirhan was "violently pro-Jordan and anti-Israel," recalling that Sirhan "would become inflamed when there was trouble between Jordan and Israel."

There also was much newspaper comment pointing to Sen. Kennedy's recent declaration favouring the sending of 50 jet planes to Israel, implying that this statement marked him as more pro-Israel than the other presidential candidates. In fact, all the presidential candidates have taken strong positions on American policy in the Middle East. All of them have called for Arab-Israel peace and have made it clear that they favour cordial relations with the Arab states and economic assistance to raise living standards.

A year ago, during the U.N. Security Council debate, the Saudi Arabian delegate, Jamal Baroody, singled out Sen. Kennedy for special attack. At that time Baroody denounced Sen. Kennedy as "an upstart, son of a whisky merchant," who visits a New York synagogue "just to catch votes," and who "said our commitment to Israel is clear and must be clear."

Sen. Kennedy then replied to Baroody's charge in a statement in which he deprecated the Arab attacks on U.S. political figures. Sen. Kennedy said that the Middle East would be better served "if the Saudi Arabian delegate and his government and all governments paid more attention to the need for economic development and permanent peace than to criticisms of political figures in the U.S."

[JERUSALEM POST June 9, 1968]

## Sirhan is indicted

LOS ANGELES (UPI). — The Arab immigrant, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, was indicted Friday for the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy.

The first-degree murder indictment against East Jerusalem-born Sirhan, 24, was voted by the Los Angeles County Grand Jury after a day-long hearing. If convicted, Sirhan could be executed in the State gas chamber. Sirhan also was indicted on five counts of assault with intent to commit murder. Five persons were wounded in the barrage of bullets that felled Sen. Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel here early Wednesday.

Sirhan spoke but twice during the arraignment — in a quiet, calm, clear voice that did not carry to the rear of the room. He was surrounded by four policemen. He first corrected the judge's pronunciation of his name. He later answered "Yes," when asked if he was satisfied with his arraignment. The judge ordered him to return on June 28 to enter a plea.

Although the Jury proceedings were closed, it was learned that testimony indicated Sirhan had taken target practice hours before the assassination. Henry,

Carreon said he talked to Sirhan Tuesday at a Southern California mountain shooting range. Mr. Carreon told police he noticed Sirhan because of his rapid firing, which was not permitted on the range. He said they then talked briefly about the 22-calibre pistol Sirhan was using.

In other developments in the fast-moving case, Sirhan's car was recovered and a campaign worker who believed she was the "woman in the polka-dot dress" seen fleeing from the shooting scene surrendered to Sheriff's deputies.

She was Kathy Fulmer, 19, who said her shouts were misunderstood by a fellow campaign aide. The woman in the polka-dot dress was reported to have screamed, "We shot him," but Miss Fulmer said she was highly distraught and yelled, "They shot him."

Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess stated Miss Fulmer said she was standing near the Senator when he was shot, and ran from the hotel after the gunfire. She said she was wearing a green suit with a polka-dot scarf. "She matched the description of the bulletin," said Pitchess. "She was young, attractive and wearing a blonde, bouffant wig. She seemed sincere in wanting to eliminate herself as someone who was involved in the murder." Police estimate there may have been 20 girls wearing polka-dot dresses in the crowd listening to the Senator's victory speech.

Two other developments also were dismissed by the police as irrelevant to the assassination. They said that a 25-year-old woman arrested as she tried to smuggle three pistols into the Los Angeles County Jail was attempting to get them to a petty theft suspect in another building in the jail complex.

Police also said that the conversation overheard a day before the assassination did not indicate a conspiracy. W. J. Wood, a water geologist who had just returned from 5½ years in Saudi Arabia and speaks Arabic fluently, said that on Monday night he overheard three men conversing in the Jordanian Arabic dialect. He said he believed one was Sirhan, and quoted one of the men as saying: "He won't be in the hotel tomorrow (Monday) night, but we can get him there the next night (Tuesday)." Police said that they did not doubt Mr. Wood's story, but said that the statements could have been taken out of context and be "totally irrelevant to the murder."

According to reports pieced together by police and newsmen, Sirhan graduated from high school in Pasadena, went to junior (two-year) college and then began drifting from job to job. Most of his friends, fellow workers and neighbours found him a nice enough fellow, but they said he was passionately pro-Arab.

In September 1966, Sirhan was thrown from a horse while working on a ranch. He complained about blurred vision following the accident and, only a few months ago received a \$1,100 cash settlement.

A neighbour, Atvin Clark, said he held frequent conversations with Sirhan and he never talked of girls, nor did he drink or smoke. John H. Weidner, a former employer, said Sirhan "did not like authority. He was emotional and was not happy in America. He is a man who knows very well what he is doing," he added.

In jail Sirhan told his guards he considers himself an intellectual. He has been reading newspapers and requested two books from the jail library — "The Secret Doctrine" by H.P. Blavatsky, and "Talks on 'At the feet of the Master'," by C.W. Leadbeater. While he enjoys talking with his guards about many subjects, he will not discuss the crime he allegedly committed nor say anything about Senator Kennedy.

# Assassination clouds White

[JERUSALEM POST]

June 9, 1968]

## House race

By SIDNEY WEILAND  
WASHINGTON, (Reuter). — Senator Robert Kennedy's murder plunged the already complex American election campaign into new uncertainties, but gave a slight edge to the old guard candidates.

Vice-President Hubert Humphrey, for the democrats, and former Vice-President Richard Nixon, for the Republicans, seemed likely to benefit from the electioneering moratorium which followed Mr. Kennedy's shooting.

Most political analysts agreed that Senator Eugene McCarthy, the other Democratic contender, and Republican Governor Nelson Rockefeller could least afford a slackening off in efforts to enlist delegate votes for crucial party conventions in August.

The major question was where would Senator Kennedy's supporters, dominated by young people and Negroes,

switch their loyalties.

Mr. Humphrey, 57, the Democratic front-runner, seemed likely to pick up more of the Kennedy vote than Mr. McCarthy, many observers said. But it was much too soon to project new lines of allegiance.

There were some indications that Senator McCarthy, 52, who entered the campaign as a vigorous anti-Vietnam war candidate, might be thinking of an alliance with the Vice-President, who has been defending administration policies.

Last week he talked cryptically of the need to confer with Kennedy aides, President Johnson and Mr. Humphrey before deciding on his future election plans. This sounded like a hint of compromise, which could either take Mr. McCarthy out of the campaign entirely, or make him Mr. Humphrey's running mate, in the interests of party unity.

A Democratic ticket with

Mr. Humphrey for President and the Minnesota Senator for Vice-President next November would prove attractive to many liberal voters.

The candidates, now all guarded by secret service agents, suspended political activity immediately after Mr. Kennedy was shot. The delay came at a critical time, with only eight weeks to go before the Republican convention on August 5 and eleven weeks before the Democratic convention on August 26. The final candidates are chosen by the conventions.

Governor Rockefeller, 59, trailing far behind Mr. Nixon, 55, needs every available day in his effort to gather delegate votes in the Republican race. Mr. McCarthy, who was beaten by Senator Kennedy in the key California primary election only a few hours before the assassination, finds himself immobilised at a low point in his campaign.

Observers said the Senator's death might trigger a rush of support to Mr. Humphrey, who has spoken out forcefully against violence and disorder, while still giving eloquent backing to Negro civil rights.

The only certainty was that Mr. Humphrey's most formidable opponent had been brutally removed.

This is the latest election shock in a series which started with Mr. Kennedy's surprise candidature in March, the off-and-on candidacy of Governor Rockefeller, and President Johnson's dramatic decision on March 31 to withdraw from the campaign.

Senator McCarthy was expected to inherit a sizeable slice of Mr. Kennedy's anti-war and liberal support, but observers questioned whether this would be enough. Many Democrats question his ability to win. Many others would feel ideologically more comfortable with Mr. Humphrey.

# Sirhan's father changes picture of 'gentle' son

[JERUSALEM POST, June 10, 1968]

By ANAN SAFADI

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Bishara Sirhan, 52, the father of the man detained as Senator Robert Kennedy's assassin, yesterday surprised another wave of TV and press reporters with an abrupt switch from his former stand and statements.

The elder Sirhan declared yesterday that he was "sure the shooting was carried out entirely on his son's initiative and alone." (Three days ago, in a statement to *The Jerusalem Post*, he said Sirhan Sirhan must have been put up to the job by somebody else.)

"Reports that other women or men were involved are baseless," he said. His son must have been motivated by his own feelings alone, he added.

"It is Senator Kennedy who is to blame for what happened. It is his tongue which led to his assassination." The Senator had "insulted the Arabs enough," he went on.

When asked how the Senator had "insulted" the Arabs, Mr. Sirhan paused for a second, and then said: "Well, Mohammed Mehdi said he did." (Mehdi, the Secretary-General of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations was on Wednesday reported to have said in New York that Sirhan "may have been inflamed" by Kennedy's TV statement last Saturday that America should support Israel in the Middle East conflict.)

Reminded of his former rejection of any such motives, Sirhan told *The Post* that he now changed his mind "following the study of reports on the situation." He promised "many further statements" in the next "three, four days."

In reply to a question whether he had been contacted recently by someone who might have helped him change his mind, Mr. Sirhan said that a resident of the nearby town of el-Biri, "who has just arrived from the States", put things straight for him. When asked who, he began fumbling through his pockets for his card which did not seem to be there.

He understood "through the el-Biri emissary" that his son would not be left alone at the trial. He added that he had not decided whether to go to the States before June 28, the date set on Saturday by a Los Angeles court for the plea.

In an attempt to change the picture given Thursday of his son as "a quiet, gentle and humble type," Mr. Sirhan yesterday told stories indicating that he had suffered several traumatic experiences during the 1948 war and that these had left permanent scars on his character. (Sirhan Sirhan was less than three years old during the fighting in Jerusalem.)

(In response to a question, the Hebrew University spokesman told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that any connection between Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the accused assassin, and a student at the University was "just a lot of infantile stupidity." A front-page story in an afternoon newspaper said that an Arab student named

Sirhan Sirhan had studied at the University from 1964 to 1966.

(The spokesman said that a Druse student from Mrar village near Tiberias, Sirhan Saleh Sirhan, had been enrolled at the University until 1967. He said that this was the only apparent solid thread in "the preposterous story," noting that the name Sirhan was common among Moslem and Christian Arabs, as well as Druse, everywhere in the country.)

## [JERUSALEM POST June 10, 1968] Eshkol eulogizes Kennedy at Cabinet

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Prime Minister Eshkol yesterday eulogized Sen. Robert Kennedy at the opening of the weekly Cabinet session.

"A terrible thing happened to the world with this murder and there are two thoughts in our hearts," he said, "the deep concern at the act itself and the sorrow at the loss of the American people and of the deeply-rooted Kennedy family which has served mankind in such an outstanding manner."

Mr. Eshkol recalled that he had met the late Senator during his visit to the U.S., in January, and that they discussed both world problems in general and Israel's problems in particular. "Robert Kennedy combined informal and hearty mannerism with serious soberness. He was not a stranger to our problems but nevertheless showed tremendous intellectual curiosity at the way a nation is formed from ingathering exiles," he said.

Pointing to the sense of mission with which Sen. Kennedy was imbued, both regarding human problems and problems of the developing countries, Mr. Eshkol said, "The hideous crime of the murder threatens to destroy the very social and moral structure of human society, and its culture."

In conclusion, the Premier conveyed condolences of the Government and people of Israel to the family, the American people and President Johnson.

[JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY. Daily News Bulletin. June 10, 1968]  
**Israel Government Angered By 'Le Monde' Editorial On Slayer of Sen. Kennedy**

JERUSALEM, June 9 (JTA)--The Israel Government is angered over an editorial which appeared in the Paris newspaper Le Monde last week and seemed to excuse Sirhan Sirhan, the Arab accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, because as "one of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who had been forced to leave their homes and find refuge in a strange land" he was incensed by the late Senator's friendly attitude toward Israel. Foreign Minister Abba Eban said yesterday that the Le Monde editorial was the "most shocking literature of incitement." Replying to questions at a press conference, Mr. Eban said that the basis of the Le Monde editorial is "appalling." The paper claimed that the Kennedy murder by a Palestinian nationalist had a "symbolic value" one year after Israel's victory and 20 years after its establishment.

Israeli intelligence and police authorities were reported Friday to be preparing a dossier for the F.B.I. following a request by the United States Embassy in Tel Aviv for any information available about the accused assassin of Sen. Kennedy. The dossier may include information on possible El Fatah involvement in the assassination. Sirhan was born in East Jerusalem in 1944 when Palestine was under British Mandate rule and moved to the U.S. with his family in 1957. His father still lives in the West Bank town of Al Tabiyeh.

(Christian Science Monitor correspondent John K. Cooley reported from Amman yesterday that El Fatah terrorists have been collecting funds from the Arab community in Los Angeles where there is "much sympathy and support" for their cause. The information was contained in several personal letters received by Jordanians from Los Angeles, Mr. Cooley wrote. He also quoted the Algiers bureau of El Fatah as having said about the Kennedy assassination that "all hypotheses about the identity of the criminal are only Machiavellian maneuvers. The murderer can only be an instrument of world Zionism, of capitalism, of the CIA, aimed at the most abject political goals."

(In London the Guardian reported from Beirut yesterday that Arabs are torn between human and political considerations in the assassination of Sen. Kennedy. They are distressed by the tragedy, and the fact the accused assassin is an Arab has caused serious embarrassment on high Government levels, the Guardian said. But the Arabs also feel that "it should be taken as an indication of the depth of feeling against American policies in the Middle East." There is a general feeling that America is less likely than ever "to take a just and honest view of the Arab-Israel conflict," the paper said. The Guardian dispatch however quoted Lebanese workman as saying "if this Palestinian (Sirhan) wanted to help his country why didn't he go back and join the El Fatah?" That, said the Guardian, is probably as good a summary as any of Arab feeling).

Robert Kennedy Yarhi was the name given the infant son of Saadya Yarhi who was born in the Beersheba hospital maternity ward on Thursday, the day Sen. Kennedy died. American Ambassador Walworth Barbour has been invited to the child's circumcision ceremony.

#### Latin American Jews Express Sorrow Over Kennedy's Death

BUENOS AIRES, June 9 (JTA)--Messages expressing the shock and grief of Latin American Jews over the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy were sent to the United States Embassy here by the DAIA, central representative body of Argentine Jewry, and the South American Executive of the World Jewish Congress. The DAIA message said in part, "If the U.S. lost an exceptionally gifted personality, the free world has lost one of its outstanding figures. We join our voices to all of those who feel horror at this crime perpetrated by a senseless hand of those preaching hatred and violence and the promoters of blind fanaticism."

#### JNF, B'nai Zion Will Plant Trees In Kennedy's Memory

[JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY. Daily News Bulletin. June 10, 1968]  
NEW YORK, June 9 (JTA)--The Jewish National Fund announced today plans to create a forest of 500,000 trees in Israel in memory of the slain Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Herman L. Weisman, JNF president, said the forest would be planted in the John F. Kennedy Peace Forest area in the Judcan mountains south of Jerusalem. B'nai Zion will plant a grove of 1,000 trees in memory of Sen. Kennedy in the John F. Kennedy Peace Forest, president Raymond M. Patt announced.

[JERUSALEM POST.  
June 10, 1968]

On the world reactions to the murder of Robert Kennedy, Hamodia (Agudat Israel) writes: "Quite exceptional and incredible in its distortion was the response of 'Le Monde,' which has been persistent in its anti-Israel line. Now it pins the blame for the foul murder on Israel — for its stubbornness concerning the withdrawal of our forces. This paper which is subject to be De Gaulle's influence, implicitly justifies the misdeed, and instead of looking for the culprit in the wild Arab incitement against anyone supporting Israel, blames Israel for not permitting Arabs like Sirhan to commit murder and slaughter of Israel citizens everyday."

Kol Ha'am (Communist) writes: "The attack on Robert Kennedy came only two months after the murder of Martin Luther King. Both these illustrious leaders fell victim to the atmosphere of racial hatred — hatred for Negroes and hatred for Israel. Both these cases of political murder are a stern warning to dam the hatred between races and nations — both in the U.S. and everywhere else."

[JERUSALEM POST]  
[June 11, 1968]

Hatzofe (National Religious), dealing with a recent editorial in "Le Monde" in which the paper implied that Israeli intransigence in refusing to withdraw her troops, lay at the root of the assassination of Senator Kennedy, writes: "This article does not only reflect a thoroughly distorted view of the foul crime committed last week in the U.S. but it also constitutes a new high point in hostility towards Israel, nurtured by certain circles in France."

[JERUSALEM POST—June 11, 1968]

### Sirhan's 'brother'

### arrest story denied

AMMAN (UPI). — Soliman Sirhan, who was arrested by Iraqi border authorities on Sunday, was a nomad Beduin who wandered unknowingly across the Jordanian-Iraqi border, an official spokesman said yesterday.

Soliman Sirhan had no connection with either Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the accused slayer of Senator Robert Kennedy, or a spy ring, Jordanian intelligence sources said. He had been released immediately after his identity had been established, the spokesman said.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency earlier reported Soliman Sirhan was a brother of Sirhan Sirhan and that he had been arrested for spying for Israel.

(The "New York Times," in a dispatch from Amman, reported yesterday that King Hussein said that intensive investigations with all Jordan's security organizations had uncovered no evidence that Sirhan Sirhan had been involved in a conspiracy or had any recent connection with Jordan. "To the best of our knowledge," the King said, "his contact with this part of the world ended when he left here as a child.")



## L.A. police seek evidence of conspiracy in Sirhan case

[JERUSALEM POST June 11, 1968]

LOS ANGELES. — While Sirhan Bishara Sirhan sits quietly in a jail cell under the eyes of a deputy sheriff, police here are reported looking for evidence the slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy might have resulted from a conspiracy.

"The New York Daily News" reported yesterday that two important witnesses — W. J. Wood and Sandra Serrano — were under police protection as detectives and FBI agents search for the mysterious "girl in the polka-dot dress" and two swarthy Arabic-speaking men. All three are alleged to have been with Sirhan prior to the assassination in the Ambassador Hotel.

The New York tabloid newspaper also reported that Sirhan's mother, Mary, a housekeeper in a church in the Los Angeles suburb of Pasadena, and his two brothers, Munir and Adel, have left their modest home for an undisclosed location. Both the Sirhan home and the Sirhans are under police protection.

The county jail in downtown Los Angeles is a bastion of security. Police reported that there have been scores of threats phoned to the police switchboard, including threats to blow up the building. Seated with Sirhan in his cell, which has only one small window in the door, is a deputy sheriff. He is unarmed. Four other guards are on constant duty in the 10-metre corridor leading to the cell.

Police said Sirhan spends most of his time reading two books — "The Secret Doctrine" and "Talks at the Feet of the Master." Both books are about theosophy, a form of religion which believes in reincarnation and miracles.

A spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union said yesterday that Sirhan has asked for a "big-name" lawyer to defend him. The ACLU stressed that it would not represent Sirhan, but was only involved to see that his constitutional rights were not violated. Sirhan currently is being represented by the public defender's office.

Authorities will not answer questions as to who has visited Sirhan. So far as it is known, no member of his family has yet done so.

(AP, UPI, INA)

# 'Le Monde' raps Eban for 'passion, suspicion'

[JERUSALEM POST

June 11, 1968]

By JACK MAURICE

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

PARIS. — The influential French newspaper "Le Monde" claimed yesterday that "passion and morbid suspicion had led Abba Eban to believe it had sought to excuse Sirhan Sirhan for the assassination of Robert Kennedy. "Le Monde", which also published a criticism by Ambassador Walter Eytan of its analysis last week of Sirhan's motives, recalled it had staunchly supported both Israeli and Arab advocates of a peaceful settlement for the past 20 years.

The newspaper commented, "It is a matter of disarming hatreds, of over-coming prejudices, and in a word, of seeking a way to men's hearts."

"Le Monde" asked, "What has President Nasser gained from blockading the Tiran Straits, except to see the Star of David floating over the Suez Canal? What has Israel gained from choosing on the morrow of a victory which opened up enormous possibilities for it, the road of intransigence and not that of noble-mindedness?"

For Arabs, the paper said, it was "simple minded" and for the Israelis a "sign of blindness" to try to force the adversary to yield.

"Passion and morbid suspicion must really have taken hold of many minds, for a moderate man like Abba Eban to have been able to believe the contrary, above all after an editorial which had been devoted on the previous day to Robert Kennedy's assassination."

Quoting David Catariyas' description of Palestine as a "too promised land," "Le Monde" concluded, "the truth is it was promised simultaneously to Jews and Arabs and any effort by one side to impose its law upon the other is not only vain but is an insult to the spirit which has

breathed over these places so many times."

In a letter to "Le Monde," Ambassador Eytan accused it of "indulgent comprehension for the assassin and his supposed motives and furthermore a scarcely-veiled insinuation that it is hardly surprising for a politician who gives his support to Israel in too-explicit terms to meet such fate."

The Ambassador denied the "Le Monde" report that Sirhan had been forced to leave his home. He recalled that Sirhan's father still lived peacefully in his native village where his son had always been free to rejoin him.

Mr. Eytan said that if Sirhan acted alone, it was because "the unbridled propaganda of hate which Arab leaders have been spreading throughout the world for the past 20 years had exercised a traumatic effect on him." The envoy added, "The crucial question is whether encouragement of violence and aggression is to be condemned and outlawed or whether it is to be 'understood' and thus encouraged until it invades the entire world and leads it to catastrophe."