

8/16/72
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A statement by Dr. M. T. Mehdi, Secretary General of the
Action Committee on American-Arab Relations before the Platform
Committee of the Republican Party, August 16, 1972, Miami Beach, Fla.

Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of Dr. William A. Small, President of the Federated Organizations on American-Arab Relations, and the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, I wish to express our gratitude for the opportunity of being here to present to you the views of several million Americans who are concerned with better relations between this country and the Arab world. American foreign policy should be in the interests of America. Unfortunately, and for many years, American policy towards the Middle East was made in the interests of one or the other of the major political parties. As the candidates were concerned with winning elections and in the process were competing for the Zionist Jewish vote. Hence, the politicians of the two major parties outdid each other in their offers to help European Jews go to occupy Palestine and later to help support the garrison state of Israel and make the two-million Jewish state stronger than the one-hundred million Arabs.

Naturally, these policies alienated the Arab world and pushed them towards the welcoming Soviet hands. Fortunately, the Arabs are an independent people who refuse being occupied by Zionist Jews or British or French colonialism or Soviet influence.

The recent decision of President Sadat of Egypt to expel Soviet technicians illustrates our point concerning Arab commitment to independence and freedom.

Mr. Chairman:

We believe that the United States should suspend its military and economic aid to all the conflicting parties, Arabs or Israel immediately. This is particularly important now that the Arabs have asserted their independence and expelled Soviet influence.

America should not become involved on the side of Israel and the less involvement the less likelihood of major power confrontations and the advent of another war in which the American boys would either have to kill other people or get killed.

Indeed, Mr. Chairman, we believe that anyone who is committed to the First Amendment to the American Constitution and its separation between religion and

state should oppose the very concept of a "Jewish" state or a "Moslem" state just as we oppose state aid to parochial schools.

We urge you, Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, to consider seriously the moral and material interests of the United States in the Middle East and not the fortunes of the Party and the possible Jewish votes that it might receive during this election.

In conclusion please let me express our appreciation to you again.