

Post
6-19-68

Elder Sirhan Appeals to World For a 'Fair Trial' for His Son

From News Dispatches

AMMAN, Jordan, June 18—Bishara Sirhan, father of the alleged assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, appealed to Pope Paul VI and the conscience of the world today to secure a fair trial for his son, Sirhan Sirhan.

At a press conference here, Bishara Sirhan said he is convinced that his son had not been told by any group to kill Kennedy, but had been provoked by the Senator's "anti-Arab" speeches.

Sirhan, 55, came here from his home in Israeli-occupied territory north of Jerusalem to draw money from his Jordanian bank account. He may go to the United States for his son's trial.

Sirhan said he regrets the death of "Kennedy the human being," but added that "Bob Kennedy had a double personality . . ."

"I can say that I do not regret his death as Kennedy the American politician," the father said. He charged that the Senator's "unbalanced" support of Israel in his presidential campaign statements "provoked the sensitive feelings of Sirhan, who had suffered much from the Jews."

He said his son had been

born in Jerusalem and had painful memories of the 1948 Palestine war. As a child, he said, his son had seen Arabs killed by Israeli terrorists and had seen a woman neighbor stabbed by an Israeli.

From Jerusalem, Yuval Elizur gave this report on the Sirhan family in a special dispatch to The Washington Post:

Sirhan used to discipline his sons with punishment bordering on torture, according to Mrs. Laila Said, who remembers the Sirhans as an unhappy family. Other former neighbors corroborated her account.

Mrs. Said said the father once beat one of his sons until the boy was unconscious, and chased away neighbors who sought to intervene.

She said the Sirhan daughter, who has since died in the United States, was often locked in her room, and friends would bring food to her. At one time, the elder Sirhan chained his daughter to the window bars.

Akiva Azulaia, Jerusalem Sanitation Department official, said that in 1936 he worked with Sirhan in laying pipe and Sirhan had to be re-

strained by Arab and Jewish workmen from attacking the Jewish project manager with an iron saw following a disagreement.

Jordanian Lawyers Offer to Aid Sirhan

LOS ANGELES, June 18 (UPI)—The Public Defender's Office acknowledged receiving a communication from Jordanian lawyers offering to assist in the defense of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Richard S. Buckley said his office would not object to Jordanian lawyers trying the case, if they qualified legally to practice in California. But Buckley said the Public Defender would not share the defense responsibility.

"We either control the case or we get out. This offer was to assist us, and we cannot accept," he said. "It's all up to Sirhan."

The defendant's mother, Mary Sirhan, moved back into her home in Pasadena yesterday under police protection. She and a brother of the accused had been under heavy guard in a nearby apartment.

Mrs. Sirhan said she had talked with Public Defender Wilbur Littlefield about seeing her son. Thus far she has not visited him, she said.