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## Arabs Regret Death, Charge 'Zionist Plot'

By DENNIS NEELD

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—The Arab world reacted with regret today 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 suspicion that the murder was a "Zionist plot" designed to discredit the Arabs was widely voiced with concern that Kennedy's death would bring a whiplash of anti-Arab sentiment.

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.

The suspect, Sirhan Sirhan, a Jerusalem-born Arab, is being held in Los Angeles. Although most newspapers here used his name, Radio Cairo did not mention it in its early morning newscast. The Syrian press also omitted it.

In Amman, knots of Bedouins and city folk gathered at street corners to read newspaper headlines splashing the story about their countryman.

"THE ISRAELI propaganda machinery is going to have a field day," one housewife said glumly.

"Poor Kennedy, it's such a pity—but what do you expect? Americans are a gangster people," said a taxi driver, Ali Hassan in Beirut.

A hotel receptionist denied

that Sirhan could be described as an Arab. "He was settled in the States and became an American, thinking and acting like an American," he said.

Associated Press correspondent Hal McClure reported from Tel Aviv that Israelis were shocked and grieved. Newspapers gave the story prominence equal to that they had reserved for the Arab-Israeli war which began just a year ago.

"The Americans are just

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about our only friends," a police officer commented.

THE JERUSALEM Post said in an editorial: "The attack prompted profound disquiet about the very future of American society. Such a grotesque conjunction of the tragedy of the Kennedy family and the political conflict in our region—a conjunction which an Arab spokesman in the United States had the unbelievable temerity to justify—drains any words of comment of meaning."

This coincided with this comment in the Beirut newspaper Al Bayrak: "Sen. Kennedy has been destined to pay the price for eagerness of American politicians to seek the votes of American Jews — even though Kennedy was the candidate who most understood the Palestinian question."