

Arabs Link Senator's Death to Policy of U.S.

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BEIRUT, Lebanon, June 6—Initial Arab reaction today deplored the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, but several newspaper editorials here asserted that the crime could not be isolated from United States policy in the Middle East.

Many individuals appeared shocked. "My immediate thoughts are with the Kennedys' 10 children," a taxi driver said, while a shopkeeper asked: "What has become of this world that thinks of nothing but bloodshed?"

The fact that the suspect in the assassination, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, was identified as an Arab from Jordan has generated profound interest in the Middle East.

Reports that Senator Kennedy's recent statements urging the United States to supply Israel with fighter planes had prompted the shooting were featured in the Arab press.

Two Beirut newspapers expressed the opinion that the assassination was a Zionist-inspired conspiracy, aimed at undermining the relations between the Arab and American peoples. In Amman, Jordan, the semiofficial Al Dastour said that only the Israelis could benefit from such a crime.

In Beirut, The Daily Star, an English-language newspaper denounced Sirhan as an outcast, and declared that the assassination "has shocked the entire Arab world."

King Hussein of Jordan, in a message to President Johnson, said that the assassination was "particularly shocking to me."

Premier Abdullah Yaffi of Lebanon declared that all Lebanese were pained by the tragedy that has befallen the Kennedy family.

In Syria and Iraq, the news

of the assassination was reported without comment.

Arab Propaganda Scored

TEL AVIV, June 6 (Reuters)—Israeli newspapers said today that Arab propaganda against Israel lay behind the assassination of Senator Kennedy.

In a typical reaction, the Tel Aviv newspaper Maariv said

that a campaign of hatred originating from Cairo, Damascus and Amman had spread around the world.

Another newspaper, Yediot Aharonot, said: "The assassination was part and parcel of the 'Arab Struggle' that for years has struck dead women and children in Israel but has now burst out to engulf the Arabs' American benefactors."