

Agnew Heads Foundation Sympathetic to Palestinians

By MARY BREASTED

Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew has taken over the presidency of a non profit educational foundation that advocates a build-up of American nuclear arms, is critical of America's policy of detente with the Soviet Union and expresses sympathy for Palestinian refugees in the Middle East.

The foundation, Education for Democracy, was formed in Indiana in 1971, and its legal papers were drawn up by Tom Charles Huston, the former White House employee whose name was mentioned often during the Watergate and impeachment inquiries because of his authorship of the so-called "Houston Plan" in 1970 to gathering intelligence of domestic radicals through electronic surveillance, break-ins and reading of mail.

Mr. Agnew became president of the foundation last November, and he maintains a telephone number for the tax-exempt foundation at the office of his business, Pathlite, in Crofton, Md. he was not available for comment yesterday and his secretary declined to say where he was.

A newsletter published by the foundation, Memoranda, had been sent out with a solicitation for funds and a cover letter from Mr. Agnew about 10 days ago. Yesterday, the Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'rith attacked the newsletter for its statements on the Middle East and charged that Mr. Agnew had taken over the foundation "for the purpose of organizing a movement to reflect his anti-Israel, pro-Arab views."

Memoranda Quoted

"There will be no solution in Palestine until justice is granted to over one million Moslem and Christian Palestinians who were driven from their homes and to the hundreds of thousands who remained as virtual serfs in the land of their ancestors," an unsigned piece in Memoranda states.

"Today the demography of Israel has been turned upside-down," the piece continues. "In a population estimated at 3,400,000, only 497,000 are Arabs and they own but a relatively small percentage of the land, Christians and Moslems have been scattered to the four corners of the earth . . . These people await the day when they can return to their homeland but in the meantime the Israeli settlements continue to spawn hatred."

Arnold Forster, general counsel for the Anti-Defamation League, said yesterday that his organization considers the Memoranda piece "to be as unfair a statement with regard to the human problems in the Middle East as ever we've seen."

No one was available yesterday to comment for the foundation in response to Mr. Forster's criticisms. Mr. Agnew's personal secretary Stephanie Barry, who also works for Pathlite, was answering the foundation's telephone.

Origin of Foundation

John A. Von Kannon, 27 years old, the publisher of what he called a "neoconservative" periodical called The Alternative in Bloomington, Ind., said during a telephone interview that he had been one of the organizers of a student group at Indiana University which formed the foundation. He said the group was made up of "antiradical students" who "did not want to join the Young Americans for Freedom," an ultra-conservative group.

Both Mr. Von Kannon and Mr. Huston said the foundation had nothing to do with Mr. Huston's work on the Huston Plan at the White House.

Mr. Huston, who was reached at his law office in Indianapolis, said his only involvement with the foundation had been in drawing up its legal papers and serving for a time as its "resident agent," a legal term for the individual on whom legal papers would be served if there were any action taken against the foundation.

Mr. Von Kannon said that by the time the foundation had been set up, he and his friends at Indiana University had "lost interest in it."-L

Last fall, he said, "after I heard through friends that Mr. Agnew was interested in getting involved in public issues again," Mr. Von Kannon called Mr. Agnew to suggest that he use the foundation as a vehicle for expressing his views. They met in Maryland, Mr. Von Kannon said, and the presidency was transferred to Mr. Agnew, with the resident agent's role being transferred to an Indianapolis business concern, the C. T. Corporation.

Mr. Agnew's secretary said that the issue of Memoranda, dated July 1976 was mailed out "about two or three weeks ago."

It contains a membership application form asking for contributions of \$500, \$100 or \$25 or a \$15 subscription fee. Mr. Agnew's cover letter, sent out with the issue, began:

"For the past two years I have waited for more national spokesmen to take up the fight against the apologists for the revolutionaries who are intent on destroying our great country. I am tired of waiting, and you probably are, too, for:

"Producers to be recognized as more important to the nation than consumers; The credibility of American military men, who devote their lives to protecting the country, to prevail over the

propaganda of America's sworn enemies; The right of privacy to apply to everyone, not just to those whom the news media feel are entitled to privacy; for industry to win out over welfare; An end to the debilitating preoccupation with race; The United States to stop being a patsy and re-earn the respect of the World."

Also in Memoranda, an eight-page newsletter, is a guest column by Patrick J. Buchanan, former speechwriter for President Nixon who is now a syndicated columnist. In the column, Mr. Buchanan deplores the absence of public outcry over recently reported political slayings in Cambodia.