

Assassin 'Inflamed' by Debate, Arab Says

NEW YORK — (AP) — The secretary general of the Action Committee on American-Arab relations said today the man charged with shooting Sen. Robert F. Kennedy "may have been inflamed" by a statement made Saturday night during the Kennedy-McCarthy debate.

Dr. Mohammad T. Mehdi recalled that Kennedy said America should support Israel in the conflict in the Middle East.

"It is this disrespect for the human Arab person

which brings about this kind of violence," Mehdi said.

The shooting suspect, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, a Jordanian immigrant, was active in the Organization of Arab Students at Pasadena State College, Mehdi said.

"We do not condone Mr. Sirhan's act and we are indeed appalled," Mehdi said. "However, his behavior reflects the frustration of many Arabs with American politicians who have sold the Arab people of Palestine to the Zionist Jewish voters."