

Rather than subdue the Arab Nationalists, the above measures prepared the stage for them to carry on their political activities. Indeed they lost no time in inaugurating a propaganda campaign alleging that the administration of the American University was attempting to suppress Arab nationalist opinion. Since the political climate in Lebanon as elsewhere in the Arab World was essentially anti-West the agitation against the above administration rallied larger segments of the student body around the Arab Nationalists and strikes broke out in that university and many other educational institutions in Lebanon demanding the return of the expelled students to the university. The administration had no alternative but to back down and withdraw its disciplinary measures against the students.

The Arab Nationalists were so excited by their success in defying both the Lebanese authorities and the administration of the American University that they decided to extend their political activities far beyond the university campus. To this end they engaged in propaganda and agitation among the masses. They found in the Western attempt to organize a Middle East defense organization a favorite target to arouse public opinion at this time. In a public lecture sponsored by al-Urwah, Dr. George Habash attacked the Western proposals for the defense of the Middle East alleging that the concept of an Allied Middle East Command was designed to preserve Western dominance in the Middle East and to use the Arab