

refugees. It severely attacked British Foreign Secretary Herbert Morrison for his peace proposals, and later in 1953 it unequivocally rejected the proposals put forth by Mr. Eric Johnston, President Eisenhower's personal representative in the Middle East. Al-Tha'r insisted that Mr. Johnston's proposals for developing the irrigation and hydro electric resources of the Jordan Valley was designed to benefit the Israelis on the expense of the Palestinians.

It is beyond the scope of the present dissertation to explore in depth the above proposals. It is, however, pertinent to recall that the Arab Nationalists were concerned with the national rights of the Palestinians and as such they rejected all proposals that stopped short of dealing with their natural right to return to Palestine. In fact the Arab Nationalists were suspicious of any attempt to resettle the Palestinian refugees in the neighboring Arab states. They saw in these attempts "ulterior designs to liquidate the Palestinian problem".⁵⁶

The Arab Nationalists efforts to mobilize the refugees and rally their opposition to the resettlement proposals was, again, testimony to the Habash leadership ability. At this time Wadi' Haddad, a Palestinian refugee from Safad who was then in his final year at the Medical College of the American University and one of the original leaders of the ANM used to spend his week-ends along with

⁵⁶ See Ali Naser al-Din, Al-Tha'r aw Mahu al-'Ar: [Vengeance or the Erasing of Disgrace], (Beirut: n.p., n.d.).