

'Mid-East People Want Peace'

By W. EDWARD WENDOVER

If it were up to the people of the war-torn Mid-East countries, there would be peace tomorrow, say two Observersland Jews who recently traveled incognito through three Mid-East Arab nations.

Rabbi Sherwin Wine of Birmingham Temple, 28611 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington, and Robert W. Poris, President and founder of the Society for Humanistic Judaism and general manager of Livonia Mall, recently traveled for three weeks through Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Rumania and Morocco.

Jews - even Americans - are banned from travel through the Arab nations of Syria, Lebanon and Egypt, so it meant that Wine and Poris could not reveal their backgrounds.

New passports had to be secured because their old ones showed they had traveled to Israel for three weeks in 1969. And when they applied for visas to visit the Arab coun-

tries, Wine and Poris marked "none" for religion.

WHILE THEIR trip through the Arab countries wasn't "cloak and dagger," nowhere on their trip did they reveal their Jewish identity. "It could have been physically dangerous," Poris said.

They encountered little anti-Semitic feeling on their journey, and the over-all feeling of the people could be described as "war weariness," Rabbi Wine said. "We found a great desire for peace," he continued. "What prevents peace is not the people but the governments. Even if the people want peace, the armies (of the Arab nations) were humiliated and war revenge."

The travelers found some differences between the Arab market places and un-



ROBERT W. PORIS

concerned about the war. "It has a very vital middle class," Rabbi Wine said. "And Beirut to denote a union of the Arab world would ever come about. "It'd be easier to get France and Germany together," he said.

In Lebanon, the first Arab country they visited, they

A LEBANESE businessman who had lived in the United States gave Wine and Poris a tour of his country and offered to make arrangements for them to visit Syria.

"With a little bit of nervousness, we agreed," Poris recalled.

The businessman got a driver to take the travelers to Syria where there was a slight delay at the border while the driver bribed the guards to get his passengers into the country.

"We went into Damascus, and our immediate impression was that it was a shabby city and not much activity in the streets," Poris said. "The market place, which is generally a beehive of activity, was quiet. The merchants looked like they were ready to fall asleep," Poris said.

Rabbi Wine agreed in Poris's assessment of the people in the war-torn country. "The people seemed to be ready for bed rather than war."

"It was a sad country," Poris said.



RABBI SHERWIN WINE

if we were Americans and when we said, 'Yes,' he smiled and said, 'Welcome to Cairo,' and walked away."

The two travelers said Egypt, which had relied on tourist trade quite heavily, was suffering now that the war had cut off much of the travel and in-coming money.

"There were no war-like feelings in Egypt at all," Rabbi Wine said, qualifying his remark that most of the people they talked to were middle-class people. "I don't know what effect the propaganda has had on the lower class," he said.

"There was an immense war-weariness and some

people expressed the hatred of other Arabs," the rabbi said. "Many Egyptians do not consider themselves to be Arabs," Poris explained. "There is even an anti-Russian feeling among some Egyptians."

BACK SAFELY in the States, the two have had time to reflect on their trip. Rabbi Wine has been speaking on their experiences in the Arab nations at his temple.

On Sept. 17 he will speak on his observations in Egypt during the service which begins at 8:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

The over-riding feelings the two observed on their trip to the Arab countries and their 1969 trip to Israel were that the people of the Mid-East want peace.

"They're weary of war and want to begin building," Rabbi Wine said.

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Tribute To Griffin Planned

A national tribute to U.S. Sen. Robert Griffin (R-Mich) will be held on Nov. 6 in the Raleigh House in Southfield.

Community leaders and national officials will attend the tribute which will be held to mark Griffin's 48th birthday. Banquets will also be held simultaneously in 10 other Michigan cities.

Commending Griffin for his 15 years of public life, Donald Young, vice president of Burroughs Corp. and chairman of the tribute committee, said, "The purpose of the birthday tribute is to indicate how much the people of Michigan appreciate his work in Washington."

House OKs McDonald's No-Dump Bill

Attempting to control the dumping of materials into all navigable waters, the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1971.

The bill was co-sponsored by U.S. Rep. Jack McDonald (R-Farmington) who is a member of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

McDonald said the bill will help clean up the oceans and waterways by giving the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to issue permits for dumping materials only after public hearings are held.

Permits will be issued after the agency studies the need and effect of the dumping. Violators are subject to a fine of up to \$50,000 per day per incident.

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