

countries as pawns for Western purposes.<sup>54</sup> He also attacked the proposals on the assumption that they were aimed at diverting the Arabs from their main objective of liberating Palestine and to force their acceptance of the status quo with Israel. In answering the challenges of the cold war, Dr. George Habash opted for "armed neutrality" by which he reflected the desire of the militant nationalists not to pursue a traditional policy of neutrality in which a state would be content by merely withholding its power from others, but a positive neutrality in which the state seeks to prevent the extension of hostilities to its territory and be ready to defend its territory by force of arms if the need arises. This well-publicized lecture was part of an intensive campaign directed by the Arab Nationalists against western positions in the Arab World. In order to communicate their message to the largest audience possible, the Arab Nationalists had to put out leaflets setting forth their views on the important national issues. They also made use of another medium to deliver their messages: wall-writing.

By 1952 the Arab Nationalists had progressed far enough to establish a front organization, Hay'at Mugawamat al-Sulh Ma' Israel [The Organization for Resisting Peace with Israel]. As its name implied, this organization was

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<sup>54</sup> See Dr. George Habash, Mashrou' al-Difa' al-Mushtarag [The Proposal for a Common Defense], (Beirut: al-Urwa al-Wuthqa, n.d.).