

The Hope of Understanding Between Arabs and Jews

tion with young Hebrews in Israel; fact which it is. One thing the Jews in Israel know: above all, they should face "practical realities" and accept the existence of the Jewish State as the triumphant hands, and they shall not, can not,

betray that trust. They are no "Latin kingdom of Jerusalem," no "forced plant," but a nation returning from Exile. They are as "indigenous" to the region as their neighbors, the Arabs. When those neighbors fully realize that fact, and put their own houses in order, all may yet be well, God willing. But, lest we seem to be naively indulging our hopes, we shall give Mr. Atyah the last harsh word: "Those who believe that this attitude of the Arabs can be altered, that real peace and co-operation can be brought about between Israel and the Arab countries are, on the evidence available at present and as far as it is possible to prognosticate, indulging in wishful fancies."

What is perhaps most painful about this cool, "realistic," or cynical statement—I am not sure how to read it—is that so many intelligent people in the United States and England (Penguin Books, we are sure, did not publish this book without serious consideration) seem to be coming to share its fatalistic pessimism. In this light, the hope for understanding between the Arabs and the Jews does seem far off, indeed. But are we ready to dismiss the ideals of "Peace on earth—good will to men" as mere "wishful fancies"? — Jewish Frontier.

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The Poujade Menace in France

By DAVID LAMBERT (Paris)

David Lambert is a noted French lawyer and a leading figure of the World Jewish Congress French Section.

To French politicians as well as to foreign observers the great surprise of the elections of January 2, 1956, was the success of the Poujade movement, which obtained 2,500,000 votes, or eleven per cent of the total vote, and sent to Parliament fifty-three deputies to represent the U.D.C.A. (Union des Defenses des Commerçants et Artisans). The leader of this movement is Pierre Poujade who himself, however, did not stand for election.

It was easy to foresee the success of this movement. Since 1945 the French have understood that they were being poorly governed and have been looking desperately among the old parties for new faces and new formulas, because they are tired of the old ones which are vague and hollow. What they want is a firm policy, energetic and prudent direction in economic matters and an end to disorderliness, abuses and scandals. That is why in 1951 de Gaulle and his followers attracted such wide support.

Now, in 1956, a substantial number of the disaffected have turned to Poujade. The reasons are clear: he is not identified with any existing party or sect, he did not make the exaggerated promises which all parties are wont to present before elections. Instead, he limited himself to a campaign against taxes, which are unpopular in all countries, and to calling for a revival of the "Etats Generaux" (States General, an as-

sembly composed of the clergy, nobility, and commons, which existed before the French Revolution). Poujade's elected deputies are complete unknowns. They are not even known to those whom they represent, which would prove that they were not elected on a basis of personal appeal but rather as representatives of a new movement opposed to injustice and excessive fiscal burdens. This support is undoubtedly a symptom of discontent which must be taken seriously.

It is important, however, not to confuse those who elected the Poujadists with the half-million or so members of the movement who accept the entire programme and ideology of Poujade. "Politician" at Fiteen. Who is Poujade? There is not the slightest doubt that he is essentially a fascist and an anti-Semite. He presents himself as an authentic Frenchman who for seven years has

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