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For information contact: Dr. James Zogby

For Immediate Release:

## Arab American Democrats In the "Mainstream of the Party"

This year a record number of more than fifty Arab American delegates and party leaders will attend the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, marking Arab Americans' full integration into the mainstream of the Democratic Party.

"In terms of access, this year is significant," noted AAI President **James Zogby**. "To win this year we had to be elected and slated by the Clinton-Gore campaign; and the large number elected reflects the respect given to the Arab American community by the Clinton White House and by the campaign."

This Arab American record of accomplishment is a result of 2-1/2 decades of concerted political action as party workers and fundraisers. The "Arab Americans for Clinton-Gore Support Committee," recognized by the party earlier this year, includes hundreds of elected and appointed officials as well as Democratic Party officers from 36 states. Chaired by three Arab American members of Congress — Reps. **Nick Rahall** (WV-03), **Pat Danner** (MO-06) and **John Baldacci** (ME-02) — the Support Committee also includes the President of the United Auto Workers International (**Stephen P. Yokich**), and five Trustees of the Democratic National Committee.

Arab Americans were also central to the creation of the National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee (NDECC), which represents all European and Mediterranean ethnic constituent groups within the party. As more than 40% of the nation's 2.5 million Arab Americans reside in the battleground states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Michigan, Arab Americans will play a key role in the 1996 Presidential election.

- 30 -