

SECRET
Pira 5874
21 April 1950
KAPOK Italy #970
Source: []

E-Ben Natan

Plan LACY - Report on 10th Contact, 17 March 1950

27. Israeli IS:

- a) Subject stated that his service had come over the hump of the crisis in which it found itself in following the changed situation in the Near East where the general tension has been relieved. And since he foresaw this improvement of the situation before all the others, he claims he received a commendation from his chief. (Field Comment: This is not what he stated in the report of the 9th Contact).
- b) The Government of Israel is pleased with the decline in tension; but it sticks by the old latin adage "Si vis pacem para bellum." It is constantly on guard and is preparing itself in order to avoid unpleasant surprises. Subject added that the Israeli government scientists and technicians have prepared some very fine things in the way of war material, and the country can face the situation confidently.
- c) The Israeli IS is trying to recruit some Egyptians. It has made many attempts, which have all failed. Egypt is the No. 1 problem which troubles the Israeli IS and Subject called it strange that it has not managed to procure an Arab agent in Italy or in Greece.

28. Outline Summary of the Organization of the Israeli IS: The controlling authority of the Israeli IS is an essential part of the Directorate of Political Affairs of the Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. BEN NATAN is the head of it. There are three principal divisions of the central control of the intelligence service, which are the following:

- a) Offensive service which is under the General Staffs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The General Staff of each of these armed forces has its own intelligence office, which takes its instructions from the Chief of the General Staff of that force for technical matters and from the Chief of the Intelligence Service for the political matters, especially for the special slant to be put on future operations.
- b) Offensive and Defensive service outside of Israel. This is performed by organs which operate abroad under various covers. Diplomatic cover prevails (vice consuls, commercial attaches, etc.) They do intelligence and counter-intelligence work. However, the service is limited to the countries of the Mediterranean Basin and those whose influence may affect Israeli politics; United States, England, France, and Russia. Italy is doubly important; it is a Mediterranean country which has much influence in the Near East, as well as a

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center of activity of vital interest in its own right because of the repercussion of Vatican policy as well as for other reasons. Generally speaking, these intelligence offices are directly controlled by the Directorate of Political Affairs of the Foreign Ministry which also comprises the Directorate of the Intelligence Service.

- c) Security Service; This is an organization which operates within the country, has exclusively negative or defensive duties. It has various organizations at its disposal set up in the principal cities of Palestine. Its methods and equipment are first rate. The security Service is also controlled by BEN NATAN.