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SECRET CONTROL

U.S. OFFICIALS

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Palestine

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Mufti's Declarations on Palestine Situation

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SUPPLEMENT

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NOT RECORDED

1. Afif Tibi, owner of al-Yawm newspaper in Beirut and former Nazi collaborator, is reported to have met the Grand Mufti in November. Tibi attributes the following statements to the Grand Mufti at that time:

- (a) The Arabs of Palestine will resort to arms and will attack the Jews, should the partition of Palestine be executed;
(b) Under the circumstances, the status quo in Palestine, i.e. the continuation of the regime of the mandate, is infinitely better than any partition scheme. The Jews should not under any circumstances be allowed to assume real power in any section of the country, for the simple reason that they would immediately launch themselves on a program of armament, would attack neighboring land, and would face the Big Four Powers with the accomplished fact of a very much larger Palestine;
(c) The British are in continuous touch with the Mufti and are actually encouraging him to denounce partition;
(d) The British are making it easy for the Arabs to arm.

2. Tibi concluded his remarks by stating that he had "never seen the Mufti as pro-British" as when he made the above statements.

This document is hereby recommended to the Committee on Assassinations with the letter of transmittal from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Architect of the United States. Next Review Date: 2008

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