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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Italy/Turkey/Arab States

DATE DISTR. 24 August 1948

SUBJECT Purchase of Arms by the Turkish Military Attache in Rome

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1. Major Arif Koral, Turkish Military Attaché in Rome, is reported to be purchasing large quantities of arms in Italy. Major Koral is said to have contacted the Italian Ministry of War, ARAR (Italian Government agency for the disposal of surplus arms) and various arms factories but has not yet been able to find the quantities and types desired. He wants pistols, rifles, machine guns, binoculars, goniometers and binoculars for anti-aircraft batteries. Source claims that the material is to be delivered to certain specified points on the coast of Calabria or directly to Turkey and to be paid for when received by the Turkish authorities. Major Koral is said to have sent agents all over Italy in search of the arms he wants. One of these agents is a certain Captain Gerald (sic), a Turkish subject who owns a large motorship with which he carries on a clandestine arms traffic along the Italian coast.

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2. Captain Gerald claims that this material is not intended for Turkey but for the Arabs in Palestine and for anti-Communist bands in Yugoslavia. Comment. The reason for this attempt to buy arms in Italy is not explainable unless the Turkish Government wishes to aid the Palestine Arabs clandestinely.)

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