OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA: Air Pouch
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DISPATCH NO. RLB-A-18.3

SECRET

CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, Foreign Division R

DATE: 9 May 1951

FROM : [redacted]

SUBJECT: GENERAL. Operational
SPECIFIC. Ma'ruf DAWALIBI

Reference: RLB-W-143C, dated 15 March 1951

1. [redacted] has acquired the following material on Ma'ruf DAWALIBI from an informant, Nasr al-IRA'I:

DAWALIBI was born in the al-Bayada Quarter of Aleppo and received his elementary education in that city. He then studied at the Mu'hadd al-Sharq'a al-Islamiyah (College of Moslem Religious Law) in Damascus.

He began his nationalist activities with the National Bloc, in 1936. In 1938 Shaykh Taj-al-Din al-HASANI, President of Syria, sent him to France to complete his higher education. There he studied [illegible] at the Sorbonne. [illegible] in the movement with the Syrian [illegible] National Bloc, [illegible].

He became acquainted in Paris with a French girl from a wealthy family and married her. She embraced Islam, is very religious now, observes the fast of Ramadan, and prays five times a day. They have a child [illegible].

DAWALIBI remained in France after the German occupation. He cooperated with the Germans there for the purpose of unifying the efforts of the Arab students and promoting the Arab cause. In the latter part of 1942 he visited Berlin, where he became friendly with Haj Amin al-HUSSEINI, the Grand Mufti of Palestine. He expressed to the Mufti his desire and that of the Arab students in France to participate in war for the Arab cause.

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[illegible]

[illegible] in Paris, [illegible] the Mufti [illegible] to organize the [illegible] students, and to bring them into the Mufti's close. [illegible] worked in this direction with earnestness and energy. [illegible] the Mufti's having allotted salaries to the students in Paris who were cooperating with him. He also supervised the Arab broadcasting station in Paris.

In 1942 he again visited the Mufti and suggested to him the idea of working with the Arabs of Morocco, helping them to get free of German imprisonment and bringing them into the Arab Legion. All Iews forced in Germany and which had its headquarters in Greece (Note: This must be the Arabisches Freiwilligenkorps). DAWALIBI became the liaison man with Moroccan leaders in this project.

With the opening of the second front in 1944 DAWALIBI was called from Paris to Germany and made head of the Mufti's Arab Bureau in Oylein (sic), Saxony. Later he went back to Paris and returned with his wife and child.

Subsequently he went to Bad Gastein with the Mufti, remaining there until the arrival of American forces. He left there with his wife and child and returned to Paris on the pretext that he had been a forced laborer of the Germans.

In Paris he worked at the Syrian Legation with Dr. Adnan ATASI, who was then Minister Plenipotentiary. When the Mufti arrived in Paris that year (1945) DAWALIBI was the first to contact him. He became the Mufti's link with Arab leaders, Arab diplomats in Paris, the French Foreign Office, etc.

At about this time he and Dr. ATASI visited the internees at the military prison of Brussels, which was directed by the British. Among those interned there were Shaykh Hasan ABU-SA'UD, Safwat TUNUS, Salah-al-Din TALBA', Dr. Ja'far RIFA'I (leader of the Arab National Party), Dr. Musa HUSAYNI, and Salih HUSAYNI. They hired a lawyer who got the Syrians and Lebanese set free and had the Palestinians deported to Seychelles.

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At the end of 1945 DAWALIBI left his post at the Syrian Legation in Paris to work for the Mufti, who sent him to Cairo. There he met with the Prime Minister, NUKRASHI Pasha, and the Secretary of the Arab League. He then visited Damascus and returned to Paris.

The Mufti decided to leave France when British pressure on the French government to surrender him to the Yugoslavs became strong. Yugoslavia considered the Mufti to be a war criminal because of his part in the forming of the Croatian Moslem division. DAWALIBI gave him his Syrian passport to use to get to Egypt, since the two men resembled each other closely. After the Mufti had gone DAWALIBI delivered to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs a message which the Mufti had left. In this message the Mufti thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its hospitality and protection and expressed his regret in having to leave the country in such a way. French authorities then began to investigate DAWALIBI and after a few days he, too, left for Egypt.

From Egypt he went to Syria and made Aleppo his headquarters. He joined the Shabab Muhammad (Children of Muhammad) and then tried to merge that organization with the Moslem Brotherhood. In Damascus he was appointed a professor of Roman law and Moslem theology at the Syrian Law College.

He ran with Rushdi KIKHYA and Dr. Nazim QUDSI in the 1946-47 elections and was elected deputy from Aleppo. Later he joined the Moslem Front, which is headed by Mustafa al-SIBA'I in Damascus.

During the 1949 crisis, at the time of the cabinet of Jamil MARDAM and Khalid al-AZM and before Husni ZA'IM's coup of March 1949, he, Fa'idi ATASSI, Shakir ASSI, Rushdi KIKHYA, and Nazim QUDSI submitted a note to Shukri al-QUWWATLI in which they demanded action for the realization of unification with neighboring countries including Iraq.

DAWALIBI supported ZA'IM during his coup. Later the People's Party, of which he was a member, was dissolved. A number of its members were arrested and others — including Rushdi KIKHYA, Nazim QUDSI, Ahmad KAMBAR, and Fa'idi ATASSI — placed under compulsory residence. DAWALIBI contacted the various legations of the Arab countries in Damascus — especially the Iraqi Legation — to mediate for their release.

SE[illegible]

During the visit of the Grand Mufti to Syria, after his departure from that country, DAWALIBI and the Moslem Front began to move away from the idea of unity.

He was one of those involved in the coup d'etat against HINNAWI. He supports those who advocate cooperation with the Egyptians and the Saudi-Arabians. He is against the Western countries because of their support of the Jews in the Palestine question.

He is regarded as one of the extremist members of the People's Party, who are inclined to support the leftists for the sake of realizing Arab aims. He is supported by the Moslem brotherhood in Egypt.

The second QUDSI government wanted to appoint him Minister to Egypt, but he refused because he preferred to work in Syria. He was named Syrian Minister to the U.S.S.R., but the appointment did not go through because of the fall of the QUDSI government.