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To	Room No.	Date		Officer's Initials	Comments
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1.	LOUD - 2262	11/9	11/11	g. h.	U HUSAYNI, NAJJ AMIN
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ABSTRACT	INDEX
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CONFIDENTIAL

G 517

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
U.S. ARMY FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

No. 9677
Jerusalem

NOV 2 1943

PALESTINE : POLITICAL

Hajj Amin el Husseini, Grand Mufti of Jerusalem

seen against the background of recent Palestine history.

(Summary of attached 32-page document.)

(By one of the leading Moslem Arabs of Jerusalem.)

NOTE: (Riots and rebellions are underlined, Commissions and Reports are capitalised.)

1. Hajj Amin is about 52 years old. His father was Mufti of Jerusalem; his brother Kamil succeeded the father, and upon Kamil's death in 1921, Amin became not only Mufti of Jerusalem, but Grand Mufti of Palestine. (A British-created position.)
2. He had studied at Al-Ashar University in Cairo until 1914, then served in the Turkish army until 1917, deserted, and then supported Prince Feisal, and took an active part in the Arab movement for a new state. Shortly after Feisal became King of Syria, Amin delivered a fiery exhortation, in Jerusalem, demanding that Palestine be incorporated in Syria. A Jew spat on a sacred flag, a riot ensued, and Amin fled to Transjordan, being sentenced in absentia to 15 years imprisonment.
3. These 1920 riots were studied by the PALIN-McBARNETT COMMISSION, but, although its report was never issued, its appreciation of Arab hopes leaked out, through later references to it.
4. July 1, 1920 saw the termination of military occupation and the appointment, as first High Commissioner, of Sir Herbert Samuel, up to that time an avowed Zionist supporter.
5. In 1921 Amin was pardoned, returned to Jerusalem, and shortly after when his brother Kamil died, he was appointed Mufti, by British manipulation of the Moslem nominations. Shortly, the British united the administration of the Waqf's and the Sharia religious courts under a new Supreme Moslem Council, and appointed Hajj Amin as its head.
6. May 1921 Outbreak, studied by RAYCRAFT COMMISSION, resulted in the CHURCHILL 1922 WHITE PAPER, "a National Home for the Jews in Palestine, not Palestine to be a National Home for the Jews," and other points encouraging to the Arabs, but the Jews continued to oppose the recommended co-operation with the Arabs. They intensified their program, bringing in 100,000 immigrants in 1920-26. This boom period went into a slump, 1927-29 with fewer immigrants and less money contributions, so the Zionists tried to intensify interest by:
 - a. Enlarging the Jewish Agency, to include rich (and numerous) non-Zionists;
 - b. Pushing Jewish claims to the Wailing Wall.Following minor demonstrations, the WAILING WALL WHITE PAPER, Nov. 1928, assigned ownership of the wall to the Moslems. Demonstrations in Aug. 1929.
7. 1929 Riots. SHAW COMMISSION. Hajj Amin had been free of politics except for defending Moslem rights to the holy sites. Now, however, he went as virtual head of the Arab group, to the LONDON CONFERENCE, called by the Government. The Arabs favored the Shaw recommendations, which were embodied in the PASSFIELD WHITE PAPER, 1930, which advised limitation on immigration, control of land sales to Jews, and some form of self-government for Palestine. It was violently attacked in Parliament and the press, by the Jews, and the Cabinet largely nullified it by the MACDONALD LETTER TO WEIZA H.

8. Another study, and the POPE SIMPSON REPORT - exposed the deperate rural conditions of Arabs, following uncontrolled Jewish land purchase and immigration.

9. Another study, the FRENCH COMMISSION, in 1931, even more favorable to the Arabs. Yet immigration rose (1932-9553; 1933-30,337; 1934-42,359). Illegal immigration made the actual figures double these amounts. Also, land purchases continued. (Jewish farm land became, by trust provision, the inalienable property of the Jews of the world).

10. Hajj Amin assisted the new High Commissioner, Sir Arthur Wauchope, by repressing anti-British feeling among the Arabs, and hoped for implementation of the various Commission reports. But Arab disappointment rose; demonstrations of protest took place at Jaffa, with many Arabs and Police casualties. (Autumn, 1934) In October, 1935, Jewish arms smuggling aroused Arab fears. Nov. 1935, Sheikh Isziddin al Qassab, fanatical but high-principled religious head, preached armed resistance, and he and his followers were attacked and killed by the Police.

11. In 1935, Wauchope formally offered a Legislative Council of Arabs and Jews, in ratio of 2-1, subject to certain British vetoes. Arabs would not accept all the latter point, the Jews opposed the whole thing, and Jewish influence in Parliament was plainly apparent.

12. Following the April 1936 Riots, Arabs felt that Arab participants were more heavily punished than were the Jews, and called a general strike. All Arab parties now united to form the Arab Higher Committee, with Hajj Amin as chairman. He had now given up hope of peaceful settlement, and had become definitely anti-British. The strike degenerated into open rebellion, directed by Iraqi army officers who had resigned their commissions. After several months the Committee called off the war, but anti-British sentiment was more bitter than ever.

13. 1936. ROYAL or PEEL COMMISSION. Arabs at first boycotted it, but finally Hajj Amin testified, to Arab aspirations and disappointments, and he demanded national independence. The Commission recommended partition of the country into Jewish, Arab, and common areas.

14. Intense Arab indignation, renewed rebellion, Oct. 1, 1937, the Government dissolved the Arab Higher Committee, declared it illegal, deported its members to Seychelles. Hajj Amin avoided arrest by remaining in the Mosque area, soon fled to Lebanon, later to Iraq; in 1941 to Teheran; and finally to Italy and Germany, where he now is.

15. The PARTITION COMMISSION decided that partition was impossible, and another WHITE PAPER formally cancelled the plan. Autumn, 1938, the British invited representatives of neighboring Arab states, as well as Arabs of Palestine, and the Jewish Agency, to the LONDON CONFERENCE. Failure to reach a solution acceptable to either party.

16. So the Government issued the MAY 1939 WHITE PAPER as its definite policy.

- a. Drastic curtailment of land sales to Jews;
- b. Practical stoppage of immigration after 75,000 in five years;
- c. Creation, in stages, of national representative government with Arab majority; after 10 years, to consider full freedom, treaty relations with Great Britain.

Arabs agreed to it in 1940 (2d: question?) but Jews have absolutely opposed it.

17. When War broke out, Arabs called off the rebellion. Since then, Arabs feel that no implementation of the 3 points has taken place, that illegal immigration has greatly exceeded prescribed limits. Arabs wait for England to fulfil the terms of the White Paper, but fear that Jewish pressure, aided by American support of the Jewish position, may cause the policy to be annulled. The Jews are arming themselves, preparing to take the initiative by force from a war-weary England.

CONCLUSION.

18. It should be borne in mind that Hajj Amin fulfilled three functions. The first was spiritual, as Mufti; secondly, as head of the Supreme Moslem Council, receiving a salary from the Government, he exercised a temporal office. There, his control of educational and religious institutions and endowments has aroused little criticism, but in the administering of family and orphan Waqfs, and funds collected for mosque repairs, he could, by manipulation, forward his personal and national ambitions.

19. His third function, as chairman of the Arab Higher Committee, after 1936, was purely political. The Rebellion which ensued looks treasonable in itself, but when considered against the whole background, it looks more like the logical culmination of 17 years of aspiration, frustration, and disillusionment.

20. It is a moot point whether or not Hajj Amin was ever offered, or accepted, financial assistance from Fascist or Nazi source. One of his closest friends has said: "I would not blame him if he did. We could no longer hope for any help of justice from Great Britain... They (the British) are... controlled, for various reasons, by the Jews and Zionists."

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Cairo : Oct. 30, 1943

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