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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.
INTELLIGENCE DISSEMINATION

		NUMBER	A-58486
COUNTRY	IRAQ	ORIGINAL RPT.	31100
SUBJECT	The Mufti of Palestine	DATE OF INFO.	15 June 1945
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ORIGIN THEATRE	ME	CONFIRMATION SUPPLEMENT	
SOURCE	Probably British		
SUB SOURCE		NO. OF PAGES	
EVALUATION		ATTACHMENTS	

1. From inquiries made by several sources it appears that ever since VE-Day there has been a certain amount of discussion in private and a good deal of speculation as to what is likely to be the fate of the Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin al-Husayni. Coupled with him in these deliberations one hears such names as Fawzi al-Qawuqji (who is believed to be alive) and Dr. Amin Rumaida.

2. A general census of opinion is that Hajj Amin is highly revered and respected in the Middle East. Among students throughout the Baghdad district his name stands for honest patriotism and unselfish interest in Arab welfare as opposed to Zionist domination. Through months of propaganda the man in the street has formed a similar idea of the Mufti.

3. Not only does public opinion consider that Hajj Amin al-Husayni should be pardoned, but many believe that, once he is in British hands, he will be treated in a manner which would give due weight to Arab opinions concerning him. Any pardon extended would be appreciated not only throughout the Arab peninsula, but also among those Egyptians who claim to have the Pan-Arab cause at heart.

4. Source found Tawfiq Suwaidi strongly in favor of saving the Mufti's neck and Rafael Butti, editor of Al Bilad, referred to the situation by quoting the Arabic translation of "neither Heaven, nor man, grieve at the mercy". Mohammed Subhi al-Daftari referred to British behavior following the murder of the British Consul in Mosul and Rashid Ali's disturbance and said that he was convinced that these wise decisions would be repeated again in their dealings with Hajj Amin.

5. In the Iraq Army both officers and men are reported, generally speaking, to hold the Mufti in respect. Major Shafiq Haddad has been heard stating that a move is on foot to seek clemency for Hajj Amin through American channels. The Naqib of Najaf is said to have expressed the opinion that the Shias of Iraq did all they could during the 1941 revolt to maintain friendship with the British and are, therefore, little interested in the Mufti's fate.

6. The only practical suggestion of asylum for him comes from an ex-internee, who is of the opinion that he should be allowed to live in the Yemen. This would appeal to Hajj Amin as an excellent alternative to death or long imprisonment in a country of milder climate. To the British it would insure his being in a place where his influence would count little for many years.

7. A comment from a Christian is that clemency for the Mufti would probably introduce a lot of goodwill into the Palestine problem, but nevertheless it will be necessary to watch him closely as he must always be considered "a treacherous foe."

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