

FROM:

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

Accession No. *62530*

*G...8.6.29 +*

Date Rec'd SA *OCT 26 1945...*

To	Room No.	Date		Officer's Initials	Comments								
		Rec'd	Exp'd.										
1. <i>LONG</i>	<i>2201</i>	<i>10-30</i>		<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>6-7482 P.C.</i> <i>AMIN, NAJJ</i> <i>AMIN</i>								
2.													
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6.					<b>DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SOURCES METHODSEXEMPTION 3B2B NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT DATE 2008</b>								
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10.	<i>1138</i>				<div> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ABSTRACT</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>INDEX</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">DATE</td> </tr> </table> </div>	ABSTRACT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DATE			
ABSTRACT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
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Each comment should be numbered to correspond with number in To column.  
 A line should be drawn across sheet under each comment.  
 Officer Designations should be used in To column.  
 Each Officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing.  
 Action desired or action taken should be indicated in Comments column.  
 Routing sheet should always be returned to Registry.  
 For Officer Designations see separate sheet.

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

INTELLIGENCE DISSEMINATION  
Washington, D.C.

Dissemination No. A-62550

COUNTRY SYRIA

ORIGINAL RPT G-8679

SUBJECT French Connections with Haj Amin Husayni and His Followers

DATE OF INFO. 2 Oct 1945  
DATE OF RPT. 18 " "  
DISTRIBUTED 7 November 1946

ORIGIN Beirut  
THEATRE NETO - Cairo

CONNECTIONS G-8432 A-61448  
SUPPLEMENT G-8596 A-62010  
G-8663 A-62358

SOURCE Z

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUB SOURCE

ATTACHMENTS

EVALUATION B-2

1. A member of the Syrian Government and former Cabinet Minister revealed in a confidential conversation with source that it was his belief that Haj Amin Husayni, Grand Mufti of Palestine who is presently enjoying French protection in Paris, had come to a definite understanding with the French in regard to Syria and Lebanon, and that before long the Mufti's agents would begin work for him. Some of these agents, he said, had already arrived in the country, but it is believed that more will come from Turkey, including a number of Syrian, Palestinian and Transjordanians.
2. It is also the belief of the same government official that Kunir Rayyis is one of Husayni's advance agents and that he is in Syria in order to pave the way for the Mufti's return. The French, according to his conversation with source, provided Rayyis with false papers. He finally reached Syria without any valid documents at all - neither passport, visa nor identity card. (Source states that this last fact is confirmed by excellent authority.)
  - a) Kunir Rayyis is a 43 year old Sunni Moslem born of a commercial family in Hama. He is one of four brothers; the other three brothers all hold minor government jobs. His first cousin is Najib Rayyis, member of Parliament from Damascus and editor-proprietor of the journal al-Qabas.
  - b) Subject never went much beyond the primary cycle of education. In 1936-7 he briefly held the important post of a director in the Syrian Surete. Subsequently he lived by his pen, writing articles for his cousin's paper, al-Qabas, for al-Muqtabas, and for other papers.
  - c) Subject is tall, heavy, has a powerful physique and a very bitter tongue. When angry he gives way to violence: on one occasion years ago, he actually struck Cabinet Minister Husni Barasi in the latter's office.
  - d) Subject is married to a government school teacher in Damascus, an intelligent and vociferous feminist, who supports him when he is out of work.
  - e) Although subject was always hard up, he now claims to have come back with 20,000 Syrian pounds made on black market operations in Europe. He tells a story about being in a concentration camp and claims to have a testimonial from the boss of the camp that money he possessed was acquired before a certain date and hence should be legitimately exchanged for good French francs.
  - f) While people disagree on his intelligence, those who know him best maintain he is sincere in his Arab nationalism.

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DIR. OFF.	NEWS	MO	ITALY	DIR. EAST	CASINO P.
ASST. DIR.					
SECYAT	M. DIV.	IN	S. EUR.	L. P.	INSTR.
DIR. SI	FIN	NY	S. EUR.	LONG. D.	R. R.
P. S.	SP	AFR.	W. EUR.	NEO. D.	RES.
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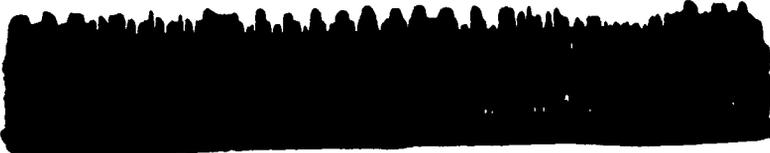
OFFICE OF SPECIAL SERVICES

- 2 -

G-8679

2. In 1940-41 he was much involved in politics and collaborated closely with Germans and with Vichyites. When the Germans started a youth movement in Syria called al-Haras al-Arabi (The Arab Guard), Rayyis joined the movement as the right hand man of its leader, Saadi al-Qailani. He went to Iraq with the Germans in 1941 and fled Syria with the Germans on the British occupation of the country.
3. The Syrian official stated that he knew for a fact Jamil Jabi and Menduh Midani, former pro-Nazis, who are at present in Syria, are opposed to Husayni and are not in agreement with Rayyis.
- a) Jamil Jabi, approximately 45 years old is a Sunni Moslem, born and educated in Damascus, and graduates in 1925 of the Damascus School of Law. He served as a judge in the minor court for six years, then resigned to practice law. He soon became the most successful lawyer in Damascus. Success led him to drinking and gambling and he lost much of his clientele.
  - b) Subject was one of the main pillars of the Usbat al-Amal al-Qawmi, the League for National Action, the political organization which has been and is today one of the main pillars of support for President Shukry Quwatli. Subject is reported to have been for several years the brains of the League of National Action.
  - c) Subject is the brother of Dr. Rushdi Jabi of Latakia and of Dr. Zaki Jabi, member of the Municipal Council of Damascus.
  - d) Subject states he intends to resume his law practice, now that he has safely returned from Germany.
  - e) Menduh Midani, about 33 years of age, is a Sunni Moslem born in the Midan quarter of Damascus. He never completed his secondary education. He inherited considerable property. For a time he was prominent in the League For National Action. He is a man of weak will; not very intelligent. He took the German side in 1940-41.
4. The Syrian official stated that according to a rumor Fawzi Quwakji, who took part in the Iraq coup and in Arab outbreaks in Palestine, is also said to have returned to Syria or Lebanon. He doubted the rumor, however. It has also been reported that Quwakji is in France. If this is so, he continued, it is probable that Quwakji will fall into the French trap, for he is essentially a soldier of fortune who sells himself to the highest bidder. In that case, Rayyis might work for the French without knowing it, as Rayyis is a worshiper of Quwakji. (For previous reference to French connections with Haj Amin Husayni, see Report G-8482. For division in Arab opinion on the return of the Lufti, and his suspected relations with the French, see Report G-8596. For French connections with Rashid Al-Qailani, see Report G-8663.)

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COUNTRY: SYRIA  
 SUBJECT: Political Connections of H. H. Husayni and his family  
 ORIGIN: Beirut  
 THREAT: Syria - Syria  
 SOURCE: ...  
 SCOPE: ...  
 SUMMARY: ...

INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION

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1. A member of the Syrian Government and former Cabinet Minister revealed in a confidential conversation with source that it was his belief that Ha. Amin Husayni, Grand Mufti of Palestine who is presently enjoying French protection in Paris, had come to a definite understanding with the French in regard to Syria and Lebanon and that before long the Mufti's agents would begin work for him. Some of these agents, he said, had already arrived in the country, but it is believed that more will come from Turkey, including a number of Syrian, Palestinian and Transjordanian.
2. It is also the belief of the same government official that Emir Hajj is one of Husayni's advance agents and that he is in Syria in order to pave the way for the Mufti's return. The French, according to his conversation with source, provided Hajj with false papers. He finally reached Syria without any valid documents at all - neither passport, visa nor identity card. (Source states that this last fact is confirmed by excellent authority.)
  - a) Emir Hajj is a 43 year old Sunni Moslem born of a commercial family in Syria. He is one of five brothers; the other three brothers all hold minor government jobs. His first cousin is Halil Hajj, member of parliament and well known and editor-proprietor of the journal Al-Qabas.
  - b) Subject never went past beyond the primary cycle of education. In 1926-27 he briefly held the important post of a director in the Syrian Courts. Subsequently he lived by his pen, writing articles for his cousin's paper, Al-Qabas, for Al-Nahda, and for other papers.
  - c) Subject is tall, heavy has a powerful physique and a very bitter tongue. When angry he gives vent to violence; on one occasion years ago, he actually struck Cabinet Minister Husni Barazi in the latter's office.
  - d) Subject is married to a government school teacher in Latakia, an intelligent and vociferous feminist, who supports him when he is out of work.
  - e) Although subject was always hard up, he now claims to have come back with 20,000 Syrian pounds made on black market operations in Europe. He tells a story about being in a concentration camp and claims to have a testimonial from the boss of the camp that money he possessed was acquired before a certain date and hence should be legitimately exchanged for good French francs.
  - f) While people disagree on his intelligence, those who know him best maintain he is sincere in his Arab nationalism.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

7. In 1940-41 he was much involved in politics and collaborated closely with Germans and with Vichyites. When the Germans started a youth movement in Syria called al-Jaysh al-Arabi (The Arab Guard), Kayyis joined the movement as the right hand man of its leader, Sahib al-Qallani. He went to Iraq with the Germans in 1941 and fled Syria with the Germans on the British occupation of the country.

9. The Syrian official stated that he knew for a fact Jamil Jabi and Hamud Kidani, former pro-Germans, who are at present in Syria, was opposed to Husayni and are not in agreement with Kayyis.

- a) Jamil Jabi, approximately 45 years old is a Sunni Moslem, born and educated in Damascus, and graduated in 1925 of the Damascus School of Law. He served as a judge in the minor court for six years, then resigned to practice law. He soon became the most successful lawyer in Damascus. Success led him to drinking and gambling and he lost much of his clientele.
- b) Subject was one of the main pillars of the Ubat al-Ismal al-Qawmi, the League for National Action, the political organization which has been and is today one of the main pillars of support for President Shukry Quwatli. Subject is reported to have been for several years the brains of the League of National Action.
- c) Subject is the brother of Dr. Rashid Jabi of Latakia and of Dr. Zaki Jabi, member of the Municipal Council of Damascus.
- d) Subject states he intends to resume his law practice, now that he has safely returned from Germany.
- e) Hamud Kidani, about 19 years of age, is a Sunni Moslem born in the Hiddin quarter of Damascus. He never completed his secondary education. He inherited considerable property. For a time he was prominent in the League for National Action. He is a man of weak will, not very intelligent. He took the German side in 1940-41.

10. The Syrian official stated that according to a rumor Fawzi Qawukji, who took part in the Iraq coup and in Arab outbreaks in Palestine, is also said to have returned to Syria or Lebanon. He doubted the rumor, however. It has also been reported that Qawukji is in France. If this is so, he continued, it is probable that Qawukji will fall into the French trap, for he is essentially a seller of fortune who sells himself to the highest bidder. In that case, Kayyis might work for the French without knowing it, as Kayyis is a worshiper of Qawukji. For previous references to French connections with M. Amin Husayni, see Report G-8562. For divisions in Arab opinion on the return of the Lufti, and his suspected relations with the French, see Report G-8596. For French connections with Rashid Al-Qallani, see Report G-8563.

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