

2202

SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

FROM:

Accession No. *64-13*

Date Rec'd SA ... *MAY 24 1996*

To	Room No.	Date		Officer's Initials	Comments
		Rec'd	Fwd'd.		
1.	<i>Subj 216</i>	<i>10/5</i>	<i>11/6</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>D. d. w.</i>
2.	<i>file 1138</i>			<i>✓</i>	<i>AWAYNI; Hajj Amin</i>
3.					
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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

ABSTRACT  INDEX

DATE *JAN 6 1957*

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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*Handwritten initials*

Dissem. No.: CPF

Date transmitted to R&A: 7/11

Date returned: June 4, 1946

IN ALL CASES FURTHER COMMENT IS MOST HELPFUL

Check appropriate lines below	Whole	Page	Paragraphs
1. Information correct			
2. Believed correct	✓		
3. Incorrect (comment below)			
4. Doubtful			

No Comment Possible; Check Reason	Whole	Page	Paragraphs
A. Subject not studied			
B. Country not studied			
C. Information covered too recent			
D. No independent source of information			

COMMENT BY R & A:

Suggest that marked section on page 2 be excluded in this report on the Mufti. It does not have any bearing on the subject, and does not contain new material. The last paragraph is the personal opinion of the source, and should not be disseminated.

*Handwritten initials*

Signature

G. [Handwritten Signature]

Report No. 399.

POPULARITY OF HAJ AMIN EL HUSSEINI UNBATED.

At the recent Neby Mousa festivities, the only Moslem feast to coincide with the Christian calendar and originally intended to counter-balance any renewed Crusader uprising, the name of Haj Amin was lauded and as popular as ever.

The Grand Mufti's pictures were offered for sale, and cars and trucks carrying the pilgrims from Jerusalem back to their home towns and villages were often festooned, and the portrait of Haj Amin was to be seen in front of the radiator or wind-screen. Arab flags were also flown from poles. As these vehicles moved off the occupants were heard singing patriotic songs, clapping, and quite often singing the praise of their hero.

In view of the fact that of late the question of bringing Haj Amin to trial was brought up in the British Parliament, <sup>same</sup> interviewed a special friend and admirer of Haj Amin, an Arab holding a responsible position in the Palestine Administration and who has been twice decorated by the British and recently has been elevated in rank while holding the same executive post. This person is not a member of any of the Arab political parties, nor does he hold allegiance to the Palestine Arab Party - the Haj Amin Hussein Party.

It was the intention also to interview leaders of opposing groups. These were not at the moment in Palestine, and their records could not be located in Jerusalem. However, the following pronouncement may with surety be said to portray the feelings toward Haj Amin of the majority of Palestine Arabs.

Informant stated that while he regretted that Haj Amin had gone too far, still he was driven to it by the British, and had no other course open to him. He drew a contrast between the attitude of the British then, when the trend was quite pro-Jew, and not as now, when some understanding is shown of the Arab feelings and sympathy for the Arab League.

He stated that while starting his career as "Britain's man", having become Grand Mufti only through British intervention and backing, Haj Amin was unwilling to stand by and see Palestine turned over to the Zionists, and therefore had to fight the British policy of the time. When he found he was to be seized, he escaped from the Sacred Sanctuary first to Lebanon, and when followed by the British after the conquest of the Vichy resistance, he moved on to Syria, Iraq, and finally to Germany.

Informant stated that it was no secret that during the last war the Arabs of Palestine on the whole were pro-German, because they hoped that a German victory would bring relief from Jewish

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domination. He stated that Haj Amin was definitely anti-German in personal feeling. He quoted an Arab proverb: "The enemy of your enemy is your friend", as well as the here often quoted statement attributed to Churchill in Parliament re the alliance with Soviet Russia, to the effect that he would make an alliance with Satan, if only it would help win the war.

He went on to say that during World War I the Arabs had wholeheartedly backed Britain, only to find that promises made to them were broken, and that Palestine had been sacrificed to Zionism. Haj Amin looked upon himself as an Arab, and therefore while a subject under the British Mandate could not be listed as a traitor, as he never worked except in the interests of his nation.

Informant went on to make a contrast between the British handling of the Arab revolution and the present Jewish terrorist activities. He stated that some three hundred Arabs had been hanged for no greater crime than being found in possession of a single rifle or pistol, and that a seven-year sentence was passed for the finding of an empty cartridge shell. Buildings were blown up as direct or collective punishment.

Later the damage done by Jewish terrorist groups had run up into millions of pounds worth of destruction, besides the loss of many British and other lives. Still, he said, not one terrorist of the number caught has been hanged or a single building demolished, even when firearms and ammunition of the most diabolical character had been found in it.

Informant intimated that now the Arabs were united, would fight and were prepared to defend themselves.

Because of circumstances and the approach of other persons, was unable to press a veiled question as to whether the Arabs in Palestine had organized any secret armed resistance force, such as the Jews now possess in a large way. Informant seemed to hint that such existed, but when further questioned and pressed, indicated that the Palestine Arabs were backed by Arab armed states. He also hinted that in desperation the Arabs might turn to the Soviet, although Soviet doctrines were repugnant to the Arabs.

*Over*  
still believes that no organized Arab resistance of any consequence exists, and that the Arab rank and file are fed up with fighting and its dire consequences through the Arab rebellion. Besides, the Palestine Arabs could not today be a match for the Jewish guerillas. And finally, both Arab and Jew look upon Britain as their enemy No. 1. From recent happenings it is abundantly clear that the Zionists are trying to get the Arab on the street on their side, and segregate him from his political leaders, so that Zionist thought is to curry favour with the Arab, rather than fight him with weapons.

Jerusalem, 23rd April, 1946.