

15th May, 1946.

Mr. Samuel Cord,
Washington D.C.

GR 102-529
21 June 46

I am enclosing reports nos. 440-452 inclusive, also copies of last week's work, as usual. Report no. 455, which was not sent with last pouch, is now enclosed, with a footnote and Palestine Post clipping attached.

In my letter no. 101 of 14th May I promised, in the last paragraph, to send names of Arab leaders mentioned in report no. 422. This I failed to do, as I should have in last week's letter, owing to haste, but here they are now: Aref el Araf, Governor of Jerusalem, and M. Nakhshibi, an assistant in his law office and a close political collaborator of Aref el Araf, leader of the Istiqlal party. I did not add these to the report for security reasons.

2. Trip to Lebanon curtailed. I left for the Lebanon on the 22nd, evening, and was back here on Monday evening, the 27th. The doctor wanted me to stay longer, but this I could not do without missing this pouch. On my return I received my first communication from Washington in envelope no. C. 65, with letter no. 1 signed by Hill, and letter no. 2 by Charles, also "Comments on Pithon's reports and on information wanted on Arab, Jewish and British affairs". I shall reply to these consecutively.

3. Letter No. 1, 15th May, 1946. Paras. 1-3. As I must make this letter short - typing my hand-written manuscripts is one of my problems, - I shall refer only to important points.

Your LHM 9, subject Arab, Jewish and British affairs. Paras. 1, the Grand Mufti. I can only in part answer these questions on the spur of the moment. More will be sent when contacts are made.

I very much doubt if Jamal is trying to usurp the power held over the people by the Grand Mufti, now in France, Maj Amin el Nusseini. Jamal worked very closely with Maj Amin when they were here together. I have repeatedly reported that Maj Amin's prestige seems to grow rather than diminish. He is applauded at every political gathering. His picture hangs in almost every home of consequence, in stores, shops, etc., and decorates triumphal arches, political decorations, etc.

When I was in Lebanon last week I talked to a native Christian gentleman, with considerable education and much polish. He had worked in a semi-senior capacity

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for the... in... Iraq...
and...
is an Arab...
officer... U.S. ...
gentle... held...
highest esteem, stated that... could not buy him
(something that cannot be said of every Arab), but ad-
mitted that Maj Amin had made a mistake by siding with
Hitler, but was forced to it by the British.

4. Jamal el Nusseini. Only in a slightly second
place Jamal has earned the esteem of the Arabs, and by
that is meant almost every Arab that has no political
axe to grind, and in that class are few. In this con-
nection it must be stated that, strange to say, Commun-
ism is taking hold of the youth, but to what extent
is difficult to say. Some predict that in the near
future the Communist Arab Party will supersede the in-
fluence of the Nusseini group, but this I doubt.
Clearly the Arab form of living is anathema to Communism.
One can only say that British policy, or lack of policy,
and the British driven by U.S. pressure, has brought the
Arab to this.

As I have before stated, I have known Jamal since
childhood. He got preliminary education in an American
school. While he was in exile, the Palestine Arab Party
was like a fish out of water. His older brother, Fawzi,
who voted as his political deputy during the latter years
of his exile, was only a stumblingblock to all Arab
achievement and unity, because of his fear to assume
responsibility.

All along, i.e. since the end of the war, Jamal's
return to Palestine was expected, but one never felt
that any Arab believed that the Grand Mufti would soon
return, even though this was coveted.

In short, I believe that Jamal would lose prestige
if he in the least tried to usurp the love the Arabs have
for Maj Amin. On the other hand, by shouting the praises
of the Grand Mufti he can only add to his prestige. I
may be mistaken. I shall take care to make careful
enquiry. However, there may be some propaganda behind it.

5. Para. 4. Arab militant elements. Some time right
after the cessation of hostilities, some information was
received but never substantiated, that Shoman, the director
of the Arab Bank, was backing an underground. I have
sent in reports to Cairo on this subject, also a sort of
"Who's Who" of Shoman. I shall miss this pouch if I stop
to look up the reports, but will send their numbers with
next.

6. Para. 5. Intimidation of Arabs selling land to Jews.
I believe this is true to a very limited extent only.
A "black hand" gang, perhaps called "Irhab" (instilling
fear) have had some pot shots, while some stories of their
killing land vendors have proved to be quite untrue and
circulated for propaganda purposes only. I have sent in
reports along these lines (references to same later).

Last year there was considerable mud-slinging, but one understands that an approach to unity has been sought. After careful investigation, will report.

So far I have been replying to paras. 1-3 of letter No. 1. I shall now go on to the subsequent paragraphs of the same letter.

7. Paras. 4, 5 and 6. Pithon. I have carefully noted all you may and have not had time to check your comments with the reports referred to. In the future will you be kind enough when sending any criticism to refer to the number of the report.

It is very difficult to trust a Jew in Palestine when it comes to politics. I still guard myself against Pithon most carefully. I know that much that he has predicted about in-coming ships with illegals has come true; the plan to seize Government lands has been authenticated from Arab intelligence sources, etc. I never dreamed of being able to get a "pipe-line" into the Jewish Agency, which I seem to have, though perhaps only a small one through Paulina. That we should always be correct is beyond my fondest hopes. Still, until I find that Pithon cannot improve, or that he is not straight, I shall try with him. It has been arranged to meet and thrash out your criticisms tomorrow evening. I hope to report fully by next.

8. Para. 7. Trans-Jordan. I am sorry that my health prevented my going to the coronation ceremony of King Abdullah. I was in Amman, and lodged in his camp with Col. Lawrence and Sir Herbert Samuel, when he became the head of the Emirate of Trans-Jordan.

I note all your needs and will try my best. Palestine Arabs look upon this new king as a British tool. Just before the coronation, as a British senior official stepped out of his car at the American Colony, he turned to his Arab chauffeur and congratulated him on "your new King". "Which", retorted the chauffeur, "Abdullah, the utility King?" The word "utility" is stamped on all goods made under Government control, and in Arab Palestine has come to have the same meaning as the German "Kraut", i.e. cheap substitute or imitation.

9. Para. 8. British moving military camps to Palestine. I have sent reports on a one million pound military contract for building a camp in South Palestine, etc. One is astounded in going through the country to see how extensive they are, and that since the war has ended the building pace has not slackened. If you cannot get this information from British official sources, I can try by touring the country to paint a picture. The tendency seems to be toward Gaza. It is to be remembered that the British have all along kept Jews out of the Negeb, where it is mooted that a canal is to be dug to supersede the Suez Canal.

10. Letter No. 2. It is quite impossible to answer this letter, as well as the last cable received, and still catch the pouch. However, I shall go into it and No. 1 more fully by next.