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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Egypt/Iraq

SUBJECT Closing of Arab Bureau Offices

ORIGIN Cairo

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SUPPLEMENT

EVALUATION OF SOURCE						EVALUATION OF CONTENT					
A	B	C	D	E	F X	1	2	3	4	5	6 X
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SOURCE Syrian, with contacts in journalistic circles.

1. On 23 February the Grand Mufti reportedly stated that the Arab Bureau Offices in Jerusalem, London and Washington will be closed shortly. The reason reported for the closing is that the Bureau, headed by Musa Alami of Palestine, is dominated by Iraq and Alami refuses to operate under the direction of the Mufti.

2. During January 1947 Alami visited Egypt and was advised by the Arab League that in order to coordinate Arab activity, the Mufti and the Arab Higher Executive were to direct and control the activity of the Arab Bureau. Accusations were made at the time that the Bureau justifiably attacked the Jews and the United States but seldom criticised British policy. Largely financed by Iraq, the Bureau, according to the Mufti, was actually dominated by the British. It was also stated that Ahmed Shukeyri, director of the Arab Bureau in Jerusalem, complained to the Mufti that Alami forced him to agree not to criticize British policy without prior approval.

3. Alami objected to the demands that he answer to the Mufti and proceeded in mid-February to Iraq where he consulted Nuri Sa'id. The latter is reported to have reiterated his confidence in Alami, advised him not to alter his position and proved that Iraq would continue to provide the necessary backing. Unwilling to back down in view of Nuri Sa'id's support, Alami returned to Cairo in late February and announced that he was departing for London and Washington shortly, to launch a propaganda campaign. The Mufti's ultimatum, however, still stands and it is believed that the Mufti will insist upon the closing of the offices unless Alami acknowledges that he is responsible to the former.

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