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NO. *R-255-47*

DATE *22 Sept 47*

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**HUSAYNI, HAJI AMIN*

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From Military Attache BEIRUT, LEBANON Date 28 Sept 1947
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Source Interviews with Syrian Deputy, DAGHALLI, Palestinian Eval B-2
Government Official, Arab Nationalists. Personal Observations.
Area Reported On PALESTINE, SYRIA & ARABIA Subject Moslem Brotherhood Group Calls

for Mobilization to Defend Palestine.

Reference (GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, PREVIOUS REPORT, ETC. IF APPLICABLE)

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SUMMARY: ENTER CAREFUL SUMMARY OF REPORT, CONTAINING ESSENTIALS SUCCESSFULLY ENTERED. ATTACH QUESTIONS WHERE, WHEN, WHAT, HOW, HOW MANY, AND DATE OF EVENT. IN A FEW CASE SENTENCE PARAGRAPHS GIVE BACKGROUND. (SEE TEXT ON PAGE 2.)

1. The Moslem Brotherhood, "Al Ikhwan Al Muslimin" officially organized in Egypt, Palestine, and Syria, is gaining membership owing to its popular stand on Palestine and its opposition to Communism. Sheikh Hassan el RAHMA, Egyptian leader, started the movement in Palestine about two years ago. It is a post-war movement.
2. The total membership is estimated at 15,000 in Egypt, 10,000 in Syria, and approximately 8,000 in Palestine. The party recently elected three deputies in Syria by opposition support. One, DAGHALLI, a typical leader from Aleppo and head of Moslem Brotherhood there, is the intimate friend of the Grand Mufti who helped him escape from France before returning to Syria a year ago. They distrust UNO and disapprove U.S.A. policy, charging discrimination against Arabs.
3. Palestine headquarters are in Raja el-HUSSINI's spacious home in Jerusalem. A neighbor, a Palestinian official, describes their daily meetings: "They read from the Koran; leaders give inspirational talks over loud speakers. When el RAHMA comes he gives messages direct from the Mufti. After each important statement, the audience shouts in unison: 'Allah Akbar!' he applauding."
4. Source claims they are arming by contraband sent by collaborators in Europe. They are preparing for a "Jihad" in case UNO decides against Arab independence.
5. Their platform outlines measures to obtain control, a call to boycott against those who aid Zionists and the return of Jews to their respective countries who immigrated to Palestine after BALFOUR's Declaration.

COMMENTS:

See page 3.

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MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD GROUP CALLS FOR MOBILIZATION TO DEFEND PALESTINE

1. The "Al Ikhwan El Maslamine" group known as the "Moslem Brotherhood", though not active in Lebanon, is officially organized in Egypt, Syria and Palestine, and has sympathizers elsewhere. Their present purpose is directed towards Palestine independence. They are preparing for a "Jihad" in the event Palestine is not given independence and have issued a recent statement that they intend to take matters into their own hands should UNO fail. Sheikh Hasan al-BANNA, Egyptian leader of this group, organized the Palestinian Brotherhood about two years ago. The party has been formed during the recent post-war years.

2. Membership: The Moslem Brotherhood appeals to the ardent Moslems who propose to restore the Islamic zone of influence from "China to Spain", following closely the teachings of the Prophet MOHAMMED and so revive the Moslem faith. Their membership is estimated at 15,000 in Egypt, 10,000 in Syria, and approximately 8,000 in Palestine. Some of their leaders are well educated in law and religion. Their spiritual and political aspirations are the reform of the Arab world and the establishment of Arab independence. A typical leader is their newly elected Syrian deputy, Marouf DAQUALIBI, a brilliant student, with a doctorate in law from the University of Paris (1947), who is head of the Aleppo Brotherhood group and an intimate friend of the Grand Mufti. (It was he who gave his passport to the Grand Mufti when he escaped from France. Their resemblance is marked especially to those who knew the Grand Mufti when he was young). DAQUALIBI is bitter and critical, and says he has lost faith in the UNO. When DAQUALIBI was first interviewed on arrival from Paris last year, he bitterly attacked the United States policy in aiding Jews and to prove this discrimination, he said he had interviewed all the Arab students caught in Germany and France during the war and found them half famished and destitute because "UNRRA gave only to the Jews because the good UNRRA jobs were held by Jews from Europe to Palestine". He said a copy of his report had been sent to UNO.

3. The Palestine Organization: The Palestine Moslem Brotherhood has its present headquarters in Raja el-BUSHEIN's home in Jerusalem. A neighbor, Munir BAYOUD, a government official, describes their center as always active. "They meet every evening, sometimes hundreds of them. The leader uses a loud speaker so we hear some speeches. When Sheikh-el-BANNA comes they crowd into the building and the yard. He has messages from the Grand Mufti and has strong influence over them. They read passages from the Koran. After a speech no one applauds, but all shout in unison, "Allah Akbar!" They train in sports." BAYOUD said he had not seen them doing military training, but says he knows they are now getting arms into the country from active collaborators in Europe. BAYOUD added that only one Christian had ever been invited to speak before this group, Reverend HOPKINS, head of the Baptists from the United States, whose pro-Arab statements on Palestine were carried in the Beirut Press with his photograph.

4. Platform: The political aims for Palestine proposed by the Moslem Brotherhood are outlined herewith:

- a. The immediate independence of Palestine as an Arab state.
- b. The return to the respective states all Jews who have immigrated into Palestine after the BALFOUR Declaration. These will not be accepted as Palestinian citizens.
- c. The total boycott against all powers or individuals who have aided the Zionists.
- d. A boycott against those assisting the "Imperialistic" Greater Syria project.

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e. The immediate establishment of an Arab Resistance force in each Arab state to liberate Palestine.

f. Since no "Occidental Power" has dealt justly on the Arab Palestine question, the Moslem Brotherhood has decided to strike and achieve freedom for Arab countries -- "Arabia for Arabs."

g. Though the Moslem Brotherhood does not oppose a Federation of Arab States they oppose King ABDALLAH's plan for a Hashimite Kingdom, because it is instigated by a foreign power.

5. Public Opinion Expressed About the Party: This movement is comparatively young, but its influence is spreading rapidly. During recent weeks meetings have been conducted in Hama, Aleppo, Damascus, Dair az-Zor, Jaffa, Jerusalem, and in other Palestine cities. Prior to elections in Syria they were feverishly active, electing Sheikh Mustafa SIRAI, Mohammed MURAK, and Sheikh NAQALIBI, and running others close to election. According to many interviewed, which include many Arab nationalist leaders in the Lebanon, all agree the group owes its alarming growth to the opposition of communism which all true Moslems find contradict the Koran. "They are revolutionary in spirit," said Nasseem MAJDALANI, head of the Orthodox Christian Arab Nationalists. "They are organized as crusaders to conquer and dominate with the sword if need be all this part of the world." Khalid el HANSEI, whose father was ousted recently from Syria by demonstrations of the students, though he is considered a leading Nationalist and educator, added: "They are fanatic, anti-fascists, narrow-minded, fascists, pushing the Arabs back instead of forward." Khalid recalled how the students, led by the religious fanatics, had shouted at his father "Atheist! Unbeliever! Veil your daughter!" (EL-HANSEI, as State advisor on education in Syria, opposed religion being taught in the schools and defied the Mullahs.) Khalid says that if this group succeeds they will wage a religious war.

COMMENTS:

The significance of this new development is two-fold, for this is the first direct evidence of an organized Islamic movement and therefore it constitutes a threat to permanent peace, since no harmony can exist where political objectives are based on sectarian differences. Already Maronites are pleading for protection against this absorption, and young progressive Arab Nationalists here deplore the rapid growth of the Moslem Brotherhood because they realize the need today for Arab unity and want to abolish sectarian bonds; so there is a strong possibility of a Holy War (Jihad). On 18 September 1947, the Moslem Brotherhood broke up a meeting in Dair az-Zor. The Communist daily newspaper, "Sant Ash-Sheab" refers to them as "A fanatic group whose spiritual power is the sword." This Moslem Brotherhood appears to be as an offspring of the Grand Mufti and his collaborators. Whatever complexion they now assume, they are anti-Occidental religious fanatics, thus powerful enough to arouse many of the 70,000,000 devout Moslems in this part of the world. The one immediate measure to stem this tide is Palestine independence.

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