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RESOLUTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS OF LAST
ARAB LEAGUE SESSION IN CAIRO

The following report was obtained by [redacted] from the same source as RLB-200. This time it is translated into English directly from the original Arabic. From the fulsome praises of the Lebanese Minister contained therein we can suppose it to be a record kept for Riyad himself by his secretary. Please cut out these references in copies distributed to customer agencies, as they are too revealing as to source. [redacted] is sabling the most important points of the document - of the genuineness of which he is convinced - crediting us.

1. The Arab League Council held its first meeting on February 9, 1948 at the chancery of the Egyptian Ministry for Foreign Affairs under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Riyad Bey SULH, Prime Minister of the Lebanon and head of the Lebanese delegation. The meeting was attended by:

His Excellency Mahmud Fahmi al-NUQRASHI Pasha, Prime Minister of Egypt and head of the Egyptian delegation, with the Egyptian delegates;

His Excellency Jamil MARDAN Bey, Prime Minister of Syria and head of the Syrian delegation, with the Syrian delegates;

Hamdi al-PASHASHI, Foreign Minister of Iraq, with the Iraqi delegates;

Sheikh Yusuf YASIN, representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

Hasan IHRANIN, representative of the Transjordan Hashimite Kingdom;

Ali al-MU'AYYID, representing the Kingdom of Yemen.

Following the opening of the session, the Council discussed the agenda, headed by the Palestine question. After this subject was discussed, it was decided to refer projects received by the Secretariat to the appropriate committees either for discussion or for making the necessary recommendations therefor, provided that the Council would then debate and decide on them. The session then ended.

SECRET

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SECRET

Meanwhile the Arab leadership has been strengthened by Sheikh Hassan al-Banna, who returned to Palestine on the 12th January together with Khalil Ghannouchi. This step followed a threat by Dr. Khalil to resign from his post as Secretary and devote himself exclusively to the medical sphere unless other leaders were made to share his responsibility.

Intensified efforts also seem to have been made to improve the military organization of the Arabs. A meeting of commanders was held in Haifa on the 13 January at which Abd-al-Qadir Beyrut and Hassan Salameh were present. The co-ordination of activities in the different areas was discussed. (Haifa appears to have been selected as the venue partly for security reasons, and partly in order to induce the Yampoujja and villagers in the area to take a more active share in the disturbances.) Beyrute have also come in of energetic efforts by the Haffi's emissaries in Beirut to secure coordination between Ghannouchi and his second in command, Abu-Darabla -- who are operating on their own initiative -- and Abd-al-Qadir Beyrut. Hassan Salameh and the political leaders in Palestine and Qadwa. The Haffi is also said to have provided to expedite the transport of arms and equipment.

Although the solution of these problems is undoubtedly of considerable importance, the promotion of Arab organization and military activities depends primarily upon the amount of assistance forthcoming from the Arab countries. In this sphere, however, there are still vast difficulties to be overcome. It appears that the League's Military Commission, which has for some time been reported to have held meetings and adopted decisions, is not yet fully and officially constituted. This fact is confirmed even by AHA and the weekly 'Nashar al-Tarq', which cannot be supposed of any desire to belittle the League, which cannot be supposed of any desire to belittle the League. Beyrute from other sources, too, indicate the difficulties preventing the formation of the Commission. Thus Egypt has not yet accepted the representation. Trans-Jordan refuses to participate, and Tunis and Morocco are standing aloof. A decree has also been refused to sack Sabih al-Badr, the Palestinian representative. Jamal Beyrut has disclosed at a press conference in Damascus that the Military Commission is composed of Fakh Bakhat and Jamil al-Bayrut (Iraq) Ahmad Ramez (Syria) and Sabih Badar (Palestine). It therefore follows that five out of the seven countries belonging to the League are not represented on the Commission. Possibly the abortive 'ammanah' of Pahlawan from Syria has given rise to second thoughts on the part of the Arab statesmen with regard to the advisability of proffering immediate military assistance to the Palestine Arabs.

The Arab League Council is due to meet again on the 24th January, but may not do so till the beginning of February. It will presumably discuss the following points: (a) the Arab 'Administrative' for Palestine; (b) questions of major policy in view of Brigadier Clayton's return to the Middle East from Iraq; and in view of the continuing

SECRET

of the treaty negotiations between Britain and Iraq (by then there may also be some news concerning the Anglo-Turkish-Jordan negotiations which are due to commence on the 22nd January); (c) further action in Palestine and the help to be given by the Arab countries; and (d) any developments that may take place in the meantime with reference to the Security Council and Implementation Commission. Forming the pertinent background to these issues are the questions of 'Abdullah, the unity of the League and coordinated activity."

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