

**SECRET**  
SECURITY INFORMATION

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| FILE NO.<br>66-7-14-EE  | SOURCE<br>MFI-5196 | DATE OF DOCUMENT<br>11 May 48 | ANALYST<br>C J             |  |
| SUBJECT<br>Arab Military Activity in Palestine  |                    |                               | DATE<br>2 Jan 53           |  |
| <p><b>PERTINENT INFORMATION</b></p> <p>You may care to see the following account of the background to the truce negotiations in Jerusalem, which came from a tested Arab source.</p> <p>i. On April 25th, the French Consul secretly and on his own initiative approached Ahmed Hilmi, the only member of the Arab Higher Executive in Jerusalem and outlined the following basis for a truce, which he intended to discuss with his Belgian and American colleagues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The truce should cover all Palestine;</li> <li>b. Arabs who had fled from such places as Haifa and Tiberias should return;</li> <li>c. Temporary cessation of Jewish immigration should be enforced by placing all ports under the control of the Truce Commission.</li> </ul> <p>ii. Hilmi did not commit himself to the French Consul, who gave him the impression of being pro-Arab. He stated later, that if he were approached officially by the Truce Commission he would be in favor of accepting such conditions, as he was afraid of a collapse of the Arabs in Jerusalem, and consequently throughout Palestine. He intended to recommend acceptance to the Jerusalem National Committee, without reference to the MUFTI or the Arab League.</p> <p>iii. If the Truce Commission offer did not materialize in the above form, he was in favor of agreeing to the High Commissioner's cease fire appeal, also without reference to the MUFTI or the Arab League.</p> |                    |                               |                            |  |
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