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~~... military activity in Palestine~~
• Nusayri, Najj Amin

at

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SECRET

Palestine

Activities of the Mufti's troop.

No.142

21.3.49.

The following information, dated March 18th, has been received from a source in touch with Munir Abu Fadl.

(i) ^{Has Qaim HUSAYNI} The Mufti's troops are in occupation of a number of villages in the immediate vicinity of Bethlohem and Jerusalem.

(ii) During the last few days the Jews have attacked three of them and have advanced to within three kilometres of Bethlohem.

(iii) On March 15th the Mufti's secret radio reported that 3,000 Jews, supported by armoured vehicles, were concentrating at /rtiuf and Deiraban, and an attack in strength was expected before March 24th.

(iv) Local commanders have sent urgent appeals for help to Munir Abu Fadl, commander of the Mufti's forces, who is now in Cairo seeking help for his forces.

(v) If the attack is successful, the way to Bethlohem will be open.

(vi) According to Abu Fadl, the Egyptian army refuse to help in any way. He believes that the Egyptians would be pleased if the Arabs in this area were wiped out as this would drive a sector of Jewish control into the heart of the area which has been more or less promised to King Abdullah. Azzam Pasha has also refused to help.

(vii) Abu Fadl is considering asking the Arab Legion for ammunition, since he alleges that his men are well armed but short of ammunition.

(viii) On March 15th Fadl attempted to approach the British through an intermediary to see if anything could be done to help these forces.

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