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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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DATE DISTR. 29 March 1949

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COMPLETELY RELIABLE	USUALLY RELIABLE	FAIRLY RELIABLE	NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	[illegible]	CANNOT BE JUDGED	CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES	PROBABLY TRUE	POSSIBLY TRUE	DOUBTFUL	PROBABLY FALSE	CANNOT BE JUDGED
A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

[illegible]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

* SOURCE Source in touch with Munir Abu Fadil.

1. On approximately 14 March 1949 Israeli troops attacked three small villages occupied by Arab troops of the Grand Mufti, Hajj Amin Husayni, in the immediate vicinity of Bethlehem and Jerusalem, and advanced to within three kilometers of Bethlehem.

2. On 15 March the Mufti's secret radio reported that 3,000 Israeli troops, supported by armored vehicles, were concentrating at Artuf and Deiraban, and that an attack in strength was expected before 24 March. Such an attack, if successful, would open the road to Bethlehem to the Israelis.

3. Local commanders of the Mufti's troops sent urgent appeals for help to Munir Abu Fadil, commander of the Mufti's forces. Abu Fadil, who was in Cairo seeking help, stated that the Egyptian Army had refused to aid in any way, and he believed that the Egyptians would be pleased if the Arabs were driven out of the area in question, as in this event the sector of Israeli control would be driven into the heart of the area which King 'Abdullah of Transjordan would like to annex. Azzam Pasha, Secretary General of the Arab League, also refused to help the Mufti's troops. On 15 March Abu Fadil tried to approach the British through an intermediary in an attempt to secure aid, and he was considering asking the Arab Legion for ammunition, since his men are well armed but are short of ammunition.

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