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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. SO 24710*

CD NO. ///

COUNTRY Middle East

DATE DISTR. 2 June 1949

SUBJECT Arab Higher Executive to Organize Resistance to Israelis

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PLACE ACQUIRED Syria, Damascus

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. Prior to 1 June 1949

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. SO-23461, SO-24175, SO-24368*

GRADING OF SOURCE *						COLLECTOR'S PRELIMINARY GRADING OF CONTENT					
COMPLETELY RELIABLE	USUALLY RELIABLE	FAIRLY RELIABLE	NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	NOT RELIABLE	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. X	4.	5.	6.

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*See below

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Paragraphs 1,2: Source with good contacts among leaders of the Arab Higher Executive.
Paragraph 3 : Lebanese with good contacts among Syrian political leaders.

F-3 1. Source states that the Arab Higher Executive, through Emile Ghuri, is attempting to bring about a reconciliation between Rashid Ali Gaylani* and the Grand Mufti, Hajj Amin Husayni, in an attempt to organize effective Palestine Arab underground resistance to the Israelis.** Source states that the Grand Mufti and Rashid Ali Gaylani were invited by Husni Za'im to come to Damascus, in order that an agreement could be reached between them.

F-3 - 2. According to source, Husni Za'im has agreed to equip 1,000 Palestine Arabs who would form a special military unit. Subsidiary units of saboteurs and guerrillas are to begin training shortly under German and Yugoslav military experts, source states. Source added that as "some dissension" existed among Palestinian Arabs with regard to the Grand Mufti, the Arab Higher Executive offered its leadership to Emile Ghuri, who refused, stating that the Mufti must remain as leader.

O-3 3. Another source stated that he attended a meeting of "prominent Syrians" where ways and means of initiating clandestine operations against the Israelis were discussed. Source states that Faris Khuri, prominent Syrian statesman, advised strongly against starting such action against the Israelis until the refugee problem had been settled, as he stated that the Israelis would use such sabotage incidents as an excuse to eject all Arabs and to refuse to accept Arab refugees. However, source feels that, in spite of these objections, plans for Arab action against the Israelis will be formulated.

* SOs 24175* and 24368*.

** SO-23461.

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