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Subject : Arab Higher Committee Activities Report Number : HLB-1275

Place Acquired : Beirut, Lebanon

Date of Information : Current

Evaluation : F-3

Date Acquired : 31 May - 1 June 49

Source :

Date of Report : 2 June 1949

1. Munif al-HUSAYNI, Hailo al-GHURY and ZA'IM have reached an agreement whereby ZA'IM will take 2,000 Palestinian soldiers into the Syrian Army over a period of time. These will include 250 trained men under the command of Fawzi al-QATAB, who used to operate in the old city of Jerusalem and other parts of Palestine. They will constitute a sabotage and commando group. While al-QATAB was in Germany with the Mufti, he studied at German military schools and fought with the German Army.
2. While al-GHURY and Munif al-HUSAYNI were in Damascus, six Germans and three Yugoslavs, who are specialists in manufacturing arms, mortar bombs, heavy artillery shells and all types of ammunition and mines, arrived to join the Germans already in Syria. These nine were sent by the Mufti. Another group of Germans and Yugoslavs will arrive shortly, including two aviators who became acquainted with the Mufti during his stay in Germany.
3. Haja'i al-GHURY, Hailo's brother, left Beirut on 1 June for Damascus carrying two messages from the Mufti in Cairo: one addressed to ZA'IM and the other to Amir Adil ARSLAN.
4. The Arab Higher Committee has been sent 200,000 pounds sterling, collected in Pakistan, South America, the Hajas and other areas, half of which has been frozen by the League. King IBN SA'UD has intervened to have the whole sum delivered. The Committee plans to use the amount to undertake new activities in the Arab countries. (Source has seen first hand evidence of the receipt of this sum by the Arab Higher Committee.)
5. On 31 May source talked with Jamal HUNAYNI and reports that he is now reconciled with the Mufti and once more working with the Arab Higher Committee, having been dissuaded from insisting on replacing the Mufti as leader. Jamal was most impressed with what he had seen in Saudi Arabia - in spite of the fact that he was lame from his exertions in the religious ceremonies in Mecca (circling the Ka'bah - "Tawaf"). He said that the King was sending young men abroad to be trained in England and America and was obtaining much help from the Americans - including arms - and that he was becoming powerful enough to be able to ignore the other Arab powers.