

Subject : Arab Information War Description of War in Palestine
 Report No. : 100-441
 Place : Beirut, Lebanon
 Date of Information : Current
 Evaluation: C - Three
 Date Acquired : 5 July 1949
 Source : []
 Date of Report: 8 July 1949

1. The Egyptians are making such a noise about their large-scale arms purchases that source's informant fears that the Israelis will sabotage most of them before they ever get to Egypt. Arms are purchased in Spain, Italy and Czechoslovakia. Spain is the safest, as it is under close control, and source's informant does not think the Jews there can get away with any subversive activities. In Italy and Czechoslovakia, the Egyptian representatives are closely watched by Israeli agents and source's informant fears acts of sabotage or terrorism.
2. King Faruq himself is responsible for the swift help extended to ZA'IM after the Syrian coup d'etat, and his subsequent alienation from the Hashimite camp. The Egyptian cabinet wished to move slowly and cautiously, but the King insisted on bringing ZA'IM down to Egypt at once, and on that occasion presented the Syrian leader with a large sum of money, said to be a million Egyptian pounds, from his own private funds.
3. ZA'IM and the Mufti's followers had at first planned to enroll fifteen thousand of the Mufti's fighters in the Syrian Army. ZA'IM, however, has since decided that this would be a mistake, as it would denude Arab Palestine of the very men with whose aid he hopes to overthrow 'ABDALLAH's rule. Therefore the Syrian army has taken only a few specialists from among the Palestinians, leaving the rest in their places. The Mufti, however, has not continued to pay the bulk of his fighters in Palestine, but is saving expenses by paying only certain militants.
4. The present plan, worked out between the Egyptians, ZA'IM and the Mufti, is for the Syrians to goad the Israelis into attacking them by sending out raiding and sabotage parties. The Egyptians will then come to the aid of the Syrians. The Palestinians will then start guerrilla warfare with the Israelis, which the Jews will naturally call upon 'ABDALLAH

to stop. The Arab Legion will then be faced with the choice of putting down their Arab brethren at the bidding of the Jews, or refusing to obey its orders. In either case, it is hoped that the result will be the overthrow of 'ABDALLAH. Source's informant was somewhat taken aback when source asked him about the story that a revolution is about to take place in Arab Palestine and Transjordan, and said he knew nothing about it. Source's impression from his attitude is that he did know all about it, and is in on it; that perhaps it will be the Mufti's show after all, as 'Abdallah ~~SA'UD~~ is said to have reached an agreement with the Mufti. (Source's informant for the story in paragraph three of HLB-1306 was an Armenian refugee from Palestine.)

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5. The Mufti's financial position has vastly improved over the past few months. For three months in Cairo early this year, when Faruq had been convinced by somebody that the Mufti had been involved with the Ikhwan al-Muslimin in MUJRASHI's assassination, the Mufti received no money at all and could not pay his bills. Now, however, he is getting help, not only from Egypt, but also from King Ibn SA'UD and from Pakistan; in the latter country the Egyptian Minister, a good friend of the Mufti, took the post originally mainly in order to help the Mufti collect money there. (An indication of the Mufti's scale of expenditures was furnished by another informant of source's, who told him that the Mufti recently sent ten thousand Egyptian pounds here, an equal amount to Damascus, and thirty thousand Egyptian pounds to Palestine.)
6. Source's informant emphasized one thing that conflicts with what we had previously heard: the terrorist activities of the Mufti's followers will be strictly limited to Palestine and Trans-Jordan, in order to avoid offending local Governments and populations.
7. Source's informant confirmed the story source reported in HLB-1314 on the reason for the murder of ~~Kamal MUHAMMAD~~ -- i.e. that he had made a deal with the Israelis to murder Z'IM.

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