

Subject : Letters from GHURI Report Number : RLB-2078
to the Grand Mufti
Place : Beirut, Lebanon Date of Information : 26 July 1950
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stated by source to have been
The following are translations from the original Arabic of four letters written by Amir GHURI, head of the Arab Higher Committee in Beirut, to the Grand Mufti in Cairo. Source points out that Is'hac ARWISH (P.N. RLB's-1898, 1991, etc.) pro-Communist nephew of the Mufti, has been sent copies of two of the four letters:

1. July 28, 1950

"His Grace the Chairman of the Arab Higher Committee for Palestine, Cairo,

"Greetings, Respect, and Loyalty:

a. "It appears that the forthcoming UN session will be very important. It is expected that it will be dominated by a ~~series~~ and cruel diplomatic dispute between the Western and Eastern Blocs. Even if Russia should absent itself from the session, it has those who will represent its viewpoint and lead the campaign on its behalf.

b. "In view of the fact that the democratic front will justify its stand on the Korean war by the claim of preserving the charter of the United Nations Organization and respecting its resolutions and principles, and will ask the General Assembly to support it in that stand, the atmosphere of the General Assembly will be propitious for listening to every voice demanding respect for the UN charter and resolutions. Furthermore, such demands will be supported by the Eastern Front, which will use the American and British stand on the project of internationalizing Jerusalem as an excuse for attacking the Western democratic front and accusing it of partiality and favoritism. Moreover, it will use it as a proof that America is actuated by imperialistic motives and ambitions in relation to Korea, and not by the UN charter and resolutions.

c. "Therefore, we feel that our interests demand that the Arab states

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raise the whole Palestine question in the next session, particularly as the Jews are intending to submit the Palestine question and to complain against the Arab states for having failed to end the prevailing unusual situation and to replace it by a stabilized situation as a result of the conclusion of peace with the Jews. The Arabs must not go to UN as defendants; They must go as plaintiffs.

d. "We have the honor to suggest to Your Grace that the Arab High Committee for Palestine submit a note to the Arab countries and the Arab League asking them to raise the Palestine question in the next UN session. It is obvious that, if the Arab states decide to raise the Palestine question, they must submit an application of their intention within a specific period. If they exceed or lag behind this period, their application will not be accepted unless two-thirds of the General Assembly approve it.

e. "With regard to the Arab High Committee for Palestine, we feel, despite the financial position of the Committee and our ~~new~~ belief in benefits from any action other than internal earnest action, that it is the duty of the Committee to send a strong delegation to the UN session (provided its arrival in New York will precede the holding of the session at least by twenty days), for many considerations, including propaganda and preparation of ground for hearing the Palestine question. We hope that you will kindly take interest in this important subject now. It is obvious that the question of the internationalization of Jerusalem itself will, by the nature of things, be included on the agenda of the session.

/s/ Charge d'Affaires of the Committee in Beirut

"Copy to Is'haq Bey DARWISH"

2. July 26, 1950

"His Grace the Chairman of the Arab High Committee for Palestine, Cairo

"Greetings, Respect and Loyalty:

cc. "We have met with Fu'ad Bey AMMUN, the Director General of the Foreign Office (P.N. RLB-141, 200, 301, etc), and spoke to him about the Palestine question and the proposal for raising it again in the UN General Assembly. We understand from Fu'ad Bey that the Lebanese Government has not decided on a specific plan in this respect and that the Foreign Office is still studying the matter. Fu'ad Bey feels that the raising of the question might

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be harmful to the Anglo-Americans because they will be wholly engaged in a ~~serious~~ diplomatic dispute with the Eastern Bloc. He believes, in principle, that the raising of the question would be favorable to the Arabs, but he is still continuing his examination of the proposal ~~from~~ all its aspects.

/s/ Charge d'Affaires of the Committee in Beirut"

3. "July 26, 1950

"His Grace the Chairman of the Arab High Committee for Palestine, Cairo

"Greetings, Respect and Loyalty:

a. "With reference to our previous letter, (F.N.: See RLB-2055), as a result of the incidents which took place in the area of the triangle, the Jordanian authorities arrested a number of the sons of the country. In Tulkarm the authorities arrested Samarah ~~SAMARAH~~ and Rashid al-JIYUSI (they were later released) as well as Wasfi al-JIYUSI, Sa'id NAPA' al-BANTAWI, and Ahmad al-JIYUSI.

b. "Lawyer Rashid al-JIYUSI was able to leave Tulkarm and reach Beirut. He is now trying to find work in Hejaz or elsewhere, because he cannot return to Palestine where the authorities are intentionally harming the nationalists in order to get rid of them. With regard to Salah Amin SALAH, the Director of the al-Umma al-Arabiyya Bank, they did not arrest him despite their pressure on him, but he has moved the bank to Amman.

/s/ "Charge d'Affaires of the Committee in Beirut "

"Copy to Is'haq Bey DARWISH"

4. "July 26, 1950

"His Grace the Chairman of the Arab High Committee for Palestine, Cairo

"Greetings, Respect and Loyalty:

a. "Salah Amin ~~SALAH~~ and Rashid al-JIYUSI have arrived in Beirut. After staying one night, SALAH returned to Amman; - he expects that the center of his work will be there. With regard to Lawyer Rashid al-JIYUSI, he is forced to stay outside Palestine, at least temporarily. We are exerting efforts to find work for him in the UN Relief and Work Agency or in ARAMCO.

b. "The above two persons have talked to us about many things and events. 'Abdallah ~~Refendi~~ al-SAMARAH (F.N.: RLB-1614, 1950, etc) will write about them. We enclose herewith a letter from Lawyer Rashid al-JIYUSI submitted to Your Grace with respect and consideration.

/s/ "Charge d'Affaires of the Committee in Beirut"

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