

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

Acquired : Beirut, Lebanon  
Date of Information : 17 March 1950  
Evaluation: F-2  
Date Acquired : 30 March 1950  
Source :    
Date of Report: 31 March 1950

1. The following is source's own account of his interview with Nail al-DHURI, Arab Higher Committee leader in Beirut, on 23 March. The interview took place in the Arab Higher Committee office on Rue al-Frasgri, in the Basta Quarter of Beirut.
2. "When I asked the clerk to inform Nail Bey of my presence, he immediately ushered me in. I met Nail Bey alone. He started by excusing himself for his inability to meet me on the previous day and two days before, and making me wait that long.
3. "He told me that he had heard of me as a nationalistic young man of socialist labor convictions, that I was educated and well-informed, and that I held my own views about my country; with these views he fully agreed. I thanked him and told him that I would meet with his approval and that I was ready to fulfill any duty for the cause of my country.
4. "He went on to say that the phase through which the Palestine question is now passing is one in which the Arab Higher Committee will cooperate with all groups and parties—particularly those which resist the imperialistic Anglo-Jordan conspiracies—and that he personally was ready to cooperate with anyone for the sake of the national cause.
5. "He said that he was aware that the Communists have highly-organized activities and that they courageously resist the projects of King ABDALLAH and REZ KURDAN, exposing their conspiracies and those of the British in Israel and Jordan.
6. "He told me that I had undoubtedly read the most recent manifesto of the Grand Mufti (Field Note: Copy attached) which denounces the elections of King ABDALLAH and his determination to annex Palestine to Jordan, and that he had sent numerous copies of this manifesto to Israel and Arab Palestine. He said he was sure I would support the manifesto because I was a friend of the Communists, and this by reason of the fact that I was active in the labor movement. I answered him by reiterating what I had said at the beginning of the conversation—that I was ready to perform my duty toward my country's cause at all costs.
7. "He replied that, were it not for his faith in my loyalty, he would not have sent for me; he had been told of how I had defended my country with gallantry during the Palestine fighting. He said he wished to work with young men like me who put no principle, without thought of selfish interests.

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7. He then returned to the subject and said that the Grand Mufti to the Communists is known. He said the Communist position would be.
8. "I replied in this wise: You are better acquainted with politics than I am, but I answer you frankly. You know that the Communists operate with energy and good organization. I tell you that this organization and this activity do not arise from a nationalist group that has studied the questions of its country and accordingly formulates its aims and policies in the interests of the people. I positively believe, although I possess no material proof, that the Communists work only under the direction of Moscow, no matter where they are, and that their leaders have been carefully trained in Party activities, which are organized by the most intelligent politicians in the world. The Communists might cooperate with you, but this will happen only after they have learned the view of Moscow's agents. You know how they level false charges against the Grand Mufti and the Higher Committee. At any rate the present policy of the Communists, as you know it, is resistance to the aims of King 'ABDALLAH and BEN 'URION. However, if Moscow so orders them, it is not improbable that they will turn and do the very opposite.
10. "He then asked me what the refugees say about the Arab Higher Committee. I replied that some are still loyal to it and defend it, whereas others say that it is responsible for the calamity of Palestine. Still others—the Communists—accuse it of treason and conspiracy with the imperialists and with the Arab States. I said I had also heard some people saying that the Committee's office furnishes information about Palestinians to the Lebanese Surets and ARABOO.
11. "To this last he replied that such is contrary to Committee policy; however, some such activities, attributed to the Committee, had in the past been carried on by persons frequenting the Committee office or working in it.
12. "I told him that Faris SIRHAN, a responsible officer in the Committee, had instructed one of his men, Mahmud MARAQQI, to cooperate with the Lebanese Surets on the P.P.S. case, and that as a result some Palestinian youths had been imprisoned and executed. His reply to this was that Faris SIRHAN is no longer an employee of the Committee nor has he any function in it. He said that SIRHAN still visits the Committee office, but that if Committee officials tried to prevent this, SIRHAN might turn against them.
13. "Then he asked me if I was prepared to send an appeal to the Arab League, signed by refugees, denouncing Jordan's attempt to annex Palestine. I told him that I would do it—that I would write the appeal with my blood and the blood of the youths of Palestine, and would send it. He asked me to show him the document before sending it, to which I agreed."

Field Notes:

Paragraph 2: Mufti al-HUSRI has been reported in RI 3's-1265, 1268, RI 4-A-1036, etc..

Para. para 12: Faris SIRHAN has been reported in RI 3's-204 and 1268.