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Subjects: Possible Leaning of Grand Mufti towards Communism

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Subject : Possible Leaning of Grand Mufti towards Communism Report Number : RLB-1933

Place Acquired : Beirut, Lebanon Date of Information : Current

Evaluation: B-3 Date Acquired : 27 April 1950

Source : [] Date of Report: 27 April 1950

1. Source is of the opinion that the rebuff received by the Grand Mufti in not being included in the recent Arab League conference in Cairo, together with his inability to command sufficient strength to halt King 'ABDALLAH's annexation of Arab Palestine, are forcing him closer to the Communists.
2. Source points out that the former secretary to the Grand Mufti, Maruf al-DAWALIBI, now Syrian Minister of National Economy, whose recent pro-Soviet remarks have created a furor in Syria and Lebanon, spent considerable time with the Mufti during the Arab League conference. Several of these meetings, took place in the very early morning, about three a.m. The Mufti and DAWALIBI, according to source, are considered to be intimates.
3. Source feels it worth noting that, previous to his departure for Cairo, DAWALIBI was visited by Emil al-GHURI in Damascus. The two men spent almost a day together. GHURI, an opportunist, has in the past indicated to source that it might be possible for the Arab Higher Committee to work with the Communist Party. Source feels that some possibility exists that GHURI, when he was out of money during the winter, was approached by a Soviet representative and given some financial assistance.

Field Notes:

- Para 2 : DAWALIBI has been reported in RLB-421, RSD's-146, 369, etc.
- Para 3 : Emil GHURI has been reported in RLB's-1858, 1897, etc. It is the opinion of the American Minister to Lebanon that GHURI, whom he knows well, is unscrupulous enough to deal with the Communist Party.

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