

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/OFFICIALS ONLY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

Mufti

REPORT NO. 00 -B-40993

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 15 Oct 51

NO. OF PAGES 2

COUNTRY Jerusalem

SUBJECT The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem

PLACE ACQUIRED Bonn, Germany

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE ACQUIRED BY SOURCE 22 Sep 51

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION 22 Sep 51

GRADING OF SOURCE BY OFFICE OF ORIGIN						SOURCE'S OPINION OF CONTENT					
COMPLETELY RELIABLE	USUALLY RELIABLE	FAIRLY RELIABLE	NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	NOT RELIABLE	CANNOT BE JUDGED	TRUE	PROBABLY TRUE	POSSIBLY TRUE	DOUBTFUL	PROBABLY FALSE	CANNOT BE JUDGED
A.	B.	C.	X D.	E.	F.	1.	2. X	3.	4.	5.	6.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT OF 1917, AS AMENDED BY ACTS OF MARCH 1950 AND OCTOBER 1950. IT IS TRANSMITTED TO YOU IN CONFIDENCE AND ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE US national with many intimate friends in the government of West Germany. Following report was received from a source within that government. The evaluation shown above is that suggested by the US national.

1. A German businessman, who has had considerable political training and who is an expert on the Near East, had a long conversation with the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Mohammed Amin El Hussein, whom he knew well during the war. The meeting took place the first week of August at Cairo. The Mufti lives there as a guest of King Farouk in a villa in Heliopolis near Cairo. The conversation was arranged by Assam Pasha, the Secretary General of the Arab League, in great secrecy. The meeting took place at night with many precautions.
2. The Mufti complained bitterly about the attitude of the West German press as compared to the press in the Soviet occupied zone. The latter, in the Mufti's opinion, showed much more comprehension of the Arab point of view; whereas, the West German press decidedly favors Israel. The Mufti did not sympathize in any way with Russia. "We Mohammedans will never be Bolsheviks," he explained. Nevertheless, no one in the West was helping the Arabs, and cold reflection showed that the only help the Arab states could expect, at least in propaganda and diplomacy, came from the "Eastern block of nations." The Mufti said he realized that the Western German Federal Republic could not show any open sympathies toward the Arabs, as Germany had done formerly, because of England. The Arabs, however, could never compromise with England in any form whatsoever, because England had betrayed them so often.
3. Source had the distinct impression that the Mufti was implying that in case of an emergency the Arabs could join the Soviets, although he denied categorically any rumors that he was in contact with Moscow through German ex-diplomats now working with the Soviets. Such rumors had previously appeared in the Swiss press. Source, however, does not discount the fact that such contacts exist at least indirectly and are being maintained through Dr. Grobba, a German ex-Minister to Bagdad, who belongs to the group of German diplomats in Russian captivity. This group is headed by Dr. Clodius, Hitler's former special ambassador and Balkan economic expert, who is frequently said to work for the Soviets.
4. Source states that there is no denying that the Mufti has been in Kabul several times recently. In fact, the Mufti admitted as much, but said he had only met some German friends who were living there. However, from his personal knowledge of the man, source considers it likely that he has had direct contact with Communist agents there. The Mufti was rather optimistic about the Persian oil conflict for the success of Persia. He is convinced that the Arab states will help Persia financially. Persia also has the decided advantage that neither England nor the United States can tolerate any kind of chaos in a country bordering the Soviet Union. He considers this the main ace in the Persian game. "Persia's

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
1-2-2008

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	NAVY	NSAS	DISTRIBUTION							
ARMY	AIR	FBI								

OO-B-40993

weakness is Persia's strength," he said. He obviously counts on increasing divergencies between England, America.

5. The above-mentioned German businessman subsequently had several intimate conversations with Idris Bey, a functionary of the Central Office of the Arab League and a good friend of his. Idris Bey, although officially only an interpreter, seems to occupy an important position and to enjoy the confidence of Assam Pasha, the Secretary General of the League. According to Idris Bey the influence of the Mufti within the inner circle of the Arab League has weakened, but his prestige in the Arab world at large is still high. The leaders of the League, however, are worried about his secret activities, and his dangerous political intrigues, especially those that had to do with the assassination of King Abdullah. A sign of increasing suspicion, according to Idris Bey, is that the administration of the funds for the help of Arab refugees from Palestine was taken away from the Mufti, because he used it freely for his political purposes. Also the Mufti's connections with Moscow are suspected of being dangerous and implying a threat against the general line of the Arab League, which leads towards a "third position" between East and West rather than to taking sides with Russia, even against England. Idris Bey's German friend took special note that the expression "third force" was carefully avoided both by the Grand Mufti and Idris Bey.
6. According to Idris Bey, not only the relationship between the Mufti and the Arab League is in a critical condition, but also his personal relations to King Farouk. Farouk, on the one side, distrusts the Mufti and on the other, does not want to antagonize him because of his plan to be proclaimed one day Caliph of all Mohammedans. According to Idris Bey, this plan is dominant in Farouk's thinking.

- end -