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DISPATCH NO. RLB-A-2271

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Deputy Chief (DYCLEAN), NEA DATE: 19 February 1952
FROM : []
SUBJECT: GENERAL. Operational
 SPECIFIC: Visit of Ex-Mufti

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1. As reported sketchily in the local press, the ex-Mufti, Haj Amin al-HUSAYNI, en route to Karachi, paid a surprise visit to Beirut on 11 February. [] and Michel AFARAH reported the following, separately.

The Mufti's visit was a surprise to everyone in the local office of the Arab Higher Executive. In his typical fashion he gave no advance notice of his trip. The Mufti timed his stop in Beirut to be simultaneous with the assembling of AHE leaders from Damascus and Amman, who had been summoned by Amil GHURI to pay a visit to Ibrahim ABU-DAYYI. The latter has been hovering near death in the AUB hospital for the past two weeks.

The Mufti, accompanied only by Haydar al-HUSAYNI, had no bodyguards. On arrival at Khalde Airport at 11:30 hours without a passport and under an assumed name, he took a taxi to Raj al-HUSAYNI's home. From there he sent a message to two persons only — Amil GHURI and Shaykh MUSA. From ~~XXXXXXXX~~ al-HUSAYNI's he proceeded to the Presidential Palace and registered, followed by visits to the homes of Abdullah YAFI, Sami JULH, thence to the AUB hospital to visit ABU-DAYYI, and finally to the Beirut office of the AHE. The Mufti sent messages to the following persons (who arrived for visits as requested), asking them to visit him at the AHE office:

Musa AYZARANI. Father of wife of ABU-SAID.
Muhammad TABBARA. Lebanese, rich.
Khalid FARKH. Old journalist in Palestine. Lives in Beirut. Attending meetings of refugees and AHC.
Hasan SHIBLAK. Was leader of Arab troops in Haifa. Working as contractor at Saida. Friend of Mufti.
Musa NAJAMI. Rich Palestinian.
Joseph SAHJUN. Ex-Minister of Telegraph and Wire in Mufti 1949 cabinet. His wife is sister of important Beirut lawyer.
Michel AZAR. Rich Palestinian.
Naif SHIBLAK. Son of Hasan. Friend of AFARAH. Age 23. Editor on Beirut.
Anti UNRWA.
Haj Ahmad ABD-al-MAHM. From Acre. Refugee Conference member.

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Faris SIRHAN, Direct assistant to GHURI.
Abu-Ibrahim Al-SAGHIR. Came from Syria to see ABU-DAYYI.

It should be noted that Amir Farid SUHAB also paid a call and spent one hour alone with the Mufti. The subject of their discussion is not known.

Numerous followers and admirers paid courtesy calls to the Mufti. His statements were primarily on the subject of the refugee question, according to [] who remained at the office the entire day.

The Mufti left the office about 9 p.m. and proceeded to the home of Amil GHURI, where he remained until time to catch the plane to Karachi, which departed around midnight.

[] []

cc: []

RLBR-2271

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