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(Classification)

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From []

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1. Relations with West Bank Opposition Deputies

Although many West Bank Opposition deputies have been Mufti supporters in the past, he exercises little influence over them now. A moderate member of that opposition has stated confidentially that relations between the Mufti and opposition deputies are either tenuous or do not exist at all.

2. Attitude Vis-a-vis Refugees: Their Reaction to Him: His Influence with the Group

As stated in the supplementary information provided for NIS, "The Palestine refugees are really just tolerating the Mufti as long as they feel he's doing something for them." This is considered an accurate statement. It is believed that whereas the Mufti has some influence with the refugees, it is not major.

3. Communist Activities

The reporting officer is reliably informed that the Mufti's ties with the Communists are strong but only with Communists outside Jordan. He is closely affiliated with Communist groups in neighboring Arab countries but he has no connections with Jordanian Communists (the hard core of whom are still in jail). The bond between the Mufti and the Communists is one of expediency and not of ideological affinity. He has been drawn to them for the same reasons that have in the past attracted the Egyptian Ikhwan into the Communist orbit.

4. General Status

It is evident that the Mufti's influence in the Arab world has declined in recent years. Presently he exercises no influence in Jordan politics. It is said that at the nadir of Abul Huda's term as Prime Minister last fall when a revolt of the opposition threatened in Parliament, Abul Huda sought the support of the Mufti as a counterweight. Preliminary negotiations were supposedly entered into but as the Parliamentary storm subsided they progressed no further.

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