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The attached report was obtained from Walid Salah, who recently resigned from the Ministry of Justice. Salah served as the prosecutor in the Abdallah assassination trial. It confirms previous reports that the Prime Minister is looking to the Mufti for support.

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Subject: Prime Minister's Efforts to Obtain Mafti Support

Report No: NJA-198

SECURITY INFORMATION

Date of Information: Current

Place Acquired: Amman

Date Acquired: 26 March 1953

Evaluation: F-6 (informant)

Date of Report: April 1953

Source: [ ] (see cover sheet)

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1. Prime Minister Isma'iq Abd al Huda has endeavored during the past few months to gain the support of Haj Amin al Husayni's followers in the Kingdom. His purpose is to strengthen his position against the opposition element in the country.
2. In line with this policy, the Prime Minister has taken the following steps:
  - a) Permitted such exiled Mafti supporters as Fayza' Mahulsi of Habbus to return to their homes in West Jordan.
  - b) Allowed the Jordanian Ambassador to Cairo, 'Auni Abd al Hadi, to meet with Haj Amin in Cairo and discuss the Palestine and refugee problems.
  - c) Considered appointing the famous Mafti strategist, Dr. Saoud al Husayni \*, to the newly-created position of Deputy Minister of the Interior in Jerusalem during December 1952.
  - d) Sent pre-Government Deputies Salih al Bakhiit and Wasfi Mirsa to sound out political leaders in Jordan as to their reaction in the event of the return of the Mafti to Jordan.
  - e) Met Emile Ghuri of the ABC in Beirut during February 1953, while on leave, and discussed the refugee situation in Jordan.

Field Notes:

- \* Minister of Economy Khalouy Khairy was sent by the Prime Minister to discuss the appointment with Dr. Husayni. The latter is generally recognized as the leader of Haj Amin's followers in Jordan at present. He stood trial for the assassination of the late King Abdullah, but was acquitted. His cousin, Dr. Musa Husayni, was hanged.

Field Comment:

Although it is improbable that the Prime Minister will arrange for the return of the Mafti at this late date, in view of the approaching Coronation of King Husayn on 2 May 1953, the overtures noted above have strengthened Abd al Huda's position. Should either he or his supporter, Said Mafti, be asked by Husayn to form a cabinet, it is likely that they will enjoy the support of the Husayni group.

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