

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECURITY INFORMATION

99264

|                |  |                 |               |
|----------------|--|-----------------|---------------|
| COUNTRY        | Jordan   | REPORT NO.      | CS-8216       |
| SUBJECT        | Efforts of Prime Minister to Obtain ex-Mufti Support | DATE DISTR.     | 29 April 1953 |
|                |  | NO. OF PAGES    | 1             |
| DATE OF INFO.  | March 1953   | REQUIREMENT NO. | RD            |
| PLACE ACQUIRED | Jordan, Amman (26 March 1953)                        | REFERENCES      |               |

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: Competent American observer (B); from an informant with close contacts among Jordanian politicians (F). Appraisal of Content: 3.

1. Prime Minister Tawfiq 'Abd-al-Huda, in order to strengthen his position against the opposition, has been attempting to gain the support of ex-Mufti Hajj Amin al-Husayni's followers in Jordan. In line with this policy 'Abd-al-Huda has taken the following steps:
  - a. Permitted Faysal Nabulsi, exiled ex-Mufti supporter, to return to his home in Habbas.
  - b. Allowed Avni 'Abd-al-Hadi, Jordanian Ambassador to Cairo, to meet with the ex-Mufti in Cairo and discuss the Palestine and refugee problems.
  - c. During December 1952, considered appointing Dr. Da'ud al-Husayni,<sup>1</sup> ex-Mufti strategist, to the newly-created position of Deputy Minister of the Interior in Jerusalem.
  - d. Sent Salim al-Bakhti and Wasfi Mirsa, pro-Government deputies, to sound out political leaders in Jordan regarding their reaction in the event of the ex-Mufti's return to Jordan.<sup>2</sup>
  - e. During February 1953 while on leave, met with Amil Ghuri of the Arab Higher Executive (AHE) and discussed the refugee situation in Jordan.

Field Comments.

1. Khalil al-Khayri, Minister of Commerce and Economics, was sent by 'Abd-al-Huda to discuss the appointment with al-Husayni who is generally recognized as the present leader of the ex-Mufti's followers in Jordan. Al-Husayni stood trial for the assassination of the late King 'Abdullah but was acquitted.
2. Although it is improbable that 'Abd-al-Huda will arrange for the return of the ex-Mufti at this late date, in view of the coronation of King Husayn on 2 May 1953, the overtures noted above have strengthened 'Abd-al-Huda's position. Should either 'Abd-al-Huda or Sa'id Mufti, his supporter, be asked by King Husayn to form a cabinet, it is likely that they will enjoy the support of the ex-Mufti group.

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

|       |                                     |      |                          |      |                          |     |                          |     |                          |     |  |  |  |  |
|-------|-------------------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|
| STATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ARMY | <input type="checkbox"/> | NAVY | <input type="checkbox"/> | AIR | <input type="checkbox"/> | FBI | <input type="checkbox"/> | SEC |  |  |  |  |
|-------|-------------------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|

(Date: Washington Distribution Indicated by "X"; Field Distribution by "S")

|         |   |     |  |         |       |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------|---|-----|--|---------|-------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| EE      |   | SR  |  | X       | RE/PP | X     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| FE      |   | ME  |  |         | 2     | RE/PI |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| OR/PI/2 | 3 | WR  |  | WRA/ORS | X     |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| RE      |   | STD |  |         |       |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

RIA-198

DEC 1953  
WIK  
ceb

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 382B  
KATIHAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT