

SECRET CONTROL

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CEL-5440
8/3
24 Dec 53

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11.12.53.

LEBANON

The Lebanese Government request the ex-Mufti of
Jerusalem to shorten his stay in the Lebanon
(1.12.53)

The attached report was provided by a regular and
extremely well-placed source who is in constant and
immediate contact with the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem.

Please see also our P/362 of the 12th of November 1953.

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LEBANON/JORDAN.

Political.

~~The Lebanese Government request the ex-Mufti of JERUSALEM
to shorten his stay in the Lebanon (7th December, 1953).~~

start -)

1. On 6th December/ 1953, SALAH ^{AL-DIN} ~~FRUHI~~^{FRUHI}, Private Secretary to the Lebanese Prime Minister, telephoned the offices of the Arab Higher Executive in DAMSCUS and requested that a representative of the ex-Mufti of JERUSALEM, ^{AL-HAJI MUHAMMAD AL-HUSAYNI} at that time on a visit to Syria, should travel at once to BEIRUT to see ^{ABDULLAH} ~~YAFI~~^{YAFI}, the Lebanese Prime Minister.

2. The ex-Mufti duly sent one of his supporters to BEIRUT on 7th December/ 1953, with instructions to remind YAFI of the promise made by the President of the Lebanese Republic at the end of November, 1953, that Lebanon would make regular payments to the BEIRUT office of the Arab Higher Executive.

3. In the meeting that took place in the Serail on 7th December ^{ABDULLAH} ~~YAFI~~^{YAFI} informed the ex-Mufti's representative that the Jordanian Government was concerned at the duration of ^{AL-HAJI MUHAMMAD AL-HUSAYNI} ~~YAFI~~'s stay in the Lebanon and in particular had complained to the Lebanese Minister in AMMAN of the ex-Mufti's campaign aimed at depriving the Jordanian armed forces of their British commanders. Complaints had also been received from Iraq and from "foreigners" (sic).

4. YAFI then told his visitor that he was entrusting him with a delicate mission - namely to request the ex-Mufti to shorten his stay in the Lebanon. YAFI added that he wished to avoid any unpleasantness, however, and that it might be possible for the ex-Mufti's representative to avoid raising the subject if he could discover whether or not ^{AL-HAJI MUHAMMAD AL-HUSAYNI} ~~YAFI~~ intended to return soon to Egypt. ³

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Field Comment.

Despite YAFI's request that the matter should not be raised if the ex-~~mufti~~ intended ~~to~~ leave the Lebanon shortly, there is no doubt that he will be fully informed of this interview by his supporter.

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