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INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE: Through an official British channel; from a source described as reliable and well-placed. Appraisal of Content: 2.

1. The ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin al-Husayni, has been staying at the New Umayyad Hotel in Damascus, as he has been refused permission to go to Jerusalem by Jordanian authorities. Damascus is as near as the ex-Mufti can get to the Moslem Congress which is at present (21 December 1953) meeting in Jerusalem. He is in daily telephone contact with his supporters at the Congress.
2. Al-Husayni is also filling up his time by constant visits to the Palestinian refugees and by strengthening his contacts with the Arab Committee in Damascus which still exists under the leadership of al-Tamimi. Apart from his propaganda in favor of recruiting and arming Palestinian refugees for incorporation in the Arab armies, al-Husayni is not openly making any political statements, but is steadily tightening his grip on the refugees in Syria.

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