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[] got this information from Ahmad Bayyad ~~AHMAD~~

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FORM NO. 81-80
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RI COPY [] **18 Dec 54**

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Subject: Possible Plan of Ex-Grand Mufti to Move His Office to Damascus Report No: NEG-778 Date of Info: 13 December 1954

Place Acquired: Egypt, Cairo Date Acquired: 16 December 1954 Evaluation of Content: 3 Date of Report: 18 December 1954

Source: A regular source (C) from an informant with good contacts in the entourage of the ex-Grand Mufti (F.)

1. At a reception at the Iraqi Embassy, Cairo, for Iraqi Foreign Minister Musa al-SHABANDAR on 13 December 1954, the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin ~~HUSAYNI~~, complained bitterly to a non-Egyptian Arab about his present position in Egypt. The Mufti, who appeared to be very tired and in a testy humor said that he was surrounded by Egyptian Government spies wherever he went. He stated that even at the reception he felt that he was being observed by agents who would report "to the officers."

2. The Mufti claimed to have received, through a recently arrived visitor, a letter from his daughter and son-in-law who are now in Damascus. (This particular son-in-law, an Egyptian, had been an officer in the Egyptian Army, but was dismissed following the ~~SAHIB~~ crisis of March-April 1954 as a supporter of NAJIB. Sometime after his dismissal and upon receiving a tip-off that he would be arrested, he and his wife, the Mufti's daughter, left Egypt for Damascus.)

3. In the letter, the ~~Mufti's~~ son-in-law wrote that he was joining the efforts of exiled Egyptian Ikhwan-al-Muslimin leader

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Said RAMADAN to organize a successful World Islamic Congress at Jerusalem. They would bring together all Muslim political and religious leaders to stand together against Western attempts to bring the Islamic world into Western alliances until the Palestine question had been solved, in accordance with the demands of the Arab world.

6) The letter ~~further~~ assured the Mufti that he would find a friendly reception in Damascus when he came to visit his daughter and son-in-law and that there would be much for him to do after discussions with RAMADAN and his friends.

7) The Mufti expressed the opinion ^{following} that Damascus will once again become a real Islamic center as it was under the ^{Umayyids.} Should he decide to move to Damascus, his role there would be an important one. ^(c) The present Egyptian Government lost its chance of becoming a leader in pan-Arab affairs.

d) ^(d) The Ikhwan trials have finally opened the eyes of all Muslims and proved that the ^(f.c.c.) ~~officers~~ officers can no longer be regarded as representative of the Muslim world. ^(e) The Syrian Ikhwan will become more influential in Syrian internal affairs now that Said RAMADAN has activated them by giving their leaders a chance ~~of~~ participating in the Palestine struggle. ^(e) Syrian Ikhwan, under RAMADAN's leadership, will also fight against "infected" Iraq where the West has deprived the dynasty and the government of all initiative.

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8/p. The ex-Mufti's ^{stated that his} Cairo office has already approached the Syrian Government in order to learn whether ^{his} the Mufti's move to Damascus would be welcome to the Syrian Government. ^{to} But the Mufti is ^{express a doubt as to} not assured of the stability of the present Syrian Government and ^{uncertainty the} is not sure whether he would be better off in Damascus than he is in Cairo.

~~Field Comment. One of the ex-Mufti's daughters married an Egyptian Army colonel on 14 June 1953 said to have been recommended by General Muhammad NAJIB.~~

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