

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: A regular Jordanian source (B); from an untested informant (F) well qualified to report on this subject. Appraisal of Content: 3.

1. Egyptian Prime Minister Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasr granted an interview to a visiting Jordanian adherent (name not specified) of the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin al-Husayni.
2. The visitor told Nasr that the Arabs were displeased by the release of the crew of the Israeli ship, BAT GALIM, by the Egyptian Government. He asked whether this could be interpreted to mean that the BAT GALIM or other Israeli ships would be allowed to pass through the Suez Canal. Nasr replied emphatically that only the crew was released and that neither the BAT GALIM nor any other Israeli ship would be allowed through the Suez. Nasr added, "if our court finds any Jews guilty of murdering an Egyptian, you will see those Jews hang."
3. The visitor then asked Nasr about the connections between the ex-Mufti and the Muslim Brotherhood (Ikhwan al-Muslamin) and whether the ex-Mufti would be charged with any crimes. Nasr replied in essence as follows: You must be careful to make the distinction between the Ikhwan and its Secret Branch. Many leaders of the Revolution were themselves members of the Ikhwan - but not of the Secret Branch. Remember that Hajj Amin was and still is a close friend to me and to the Revolution. In 1948 I asked the Mufti to act as head of the Palestine Revolution and he agreed - but then the Egyptian Government recalled me to Cairo. I want to add that we have the Mufti here with us now in Cairo pending the time to allow him to march to the rescue of Palestine at the head of Egyptian-Palestine troops.
4. The visitor then inquired as to the truth of Egyptian press allegations that the Israelis had been selling arms to the Ikhwan in Egypt through Jordan. Nasr replied, "These reports are true. I am not in a position to reveal all the details as the matter is still under investigation, but I can say that the men of the Islamic Council in Jerusalem are connected with this affair." "I also want to tell you," he added, "that we have many loyal friends in all the Arab countries who report to us on all matters of interest."

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5. The visitor then asked, "Is it true, as the papers have charged, that large sums of money collected from the Arab countries on behalf of the Palestine cause have been stolen?"

To which Nasr answered, "This also is true. The reports refer to the leader of Misr al-Fatah, Ahmad Husayn, who is a big fascist. This affair will soon be aired in court."

6. Finally, the visitor remarked, "The Palestine problem is now 6 years old. Have you any comments or advice to the refugees?"

Nasr replied, "I advise the refugees to continue to hold on and never under any circumstances to forget their land and their rights. We will do our best to return them to their homes. We are focusing all our powers on this objective."

7. The same visitor subsequently interviewed the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin al Husayni. The following is a paraphrase of the pertinent parts of their conversation:

Visitor: "What do you feel are the possibilities of settling the Palestinian refugee problem?"

Husayni: "Before I begin, I want to draw to your attention the press report that Israel has received from the United States three great warships which are the first of a fleet being prepared in America for the Jews. Many American leaders have declared that Israel is to be the first sea power in the Middle East. If, added to this, we realize that Israel already has a powerful air force and army, then we must confess that Israel will be able to cut all contacts and communications between the Arab States. If this is true, then how shall Palestine be rescued? My reply to your question is that the Arabs must follow the following courses of action:

- a. "They must maintain their determination that Palestine will be rescued, at whatever the cost and however long it may take. They must remember Palestine. Maps of the true Palestine must be hung in every house, in every school, office, shop, and public building. They must follow and emulate France by perpetuating Palestine as Arab territory even as the French perpetuated Alsace-Lorraine as French territory after they lost it. Palestine history must be taught in every Arab school.
- b. "Every male Palestinian must prepare himself. The Palestinians must join the armies of whichever Arab country they happen to be in. Those in Jordan must join the National Guard in order to defend the border now and be ready to attack in the future.
- c. "All Arab and Muslim countries must open consulates and legations in Jerusalem. The Jordanian Government should itself be transferred to Jerusalem.²
- d. "The Palestinian's case must be returned to Palestinian hands. The refugees, and their education, their relief, and their politics must be placed in the hands of the Arab Higher Committee.

- e. "Neutrality in the New World War. I call for Arab neutrality between East and West - and if we have not been restored to our homes by the time World War III breaks out, I shall not only demand neutrality but I shall urge the refugees everywhere to form terrorist and guerrilla bands to work against the Allies - bands such as were well known to the British during our revolutions."

Visitor's Question: "Does this mean that you will urge us to join Russia?"

Husayni: "Look, Russia is not the Arab enemy. Russia has not occupied our lands nor usurped our air field nor stolen our oil. Russia has done nothing to us. Our enemies are those who have taken our lands and resources and deceived us with false promises in the last two wars. We do not like Russia - nor do we hate it. Our religion is contradicted by Communism. But - if we fail in our cause, if we have not received our rights by World War III, what are we to do? Shall we simply cease our activities and give the Allies time to win the war so that they can then give the rest of the Arab World to the Jews?"

"If Germany had won the last war, would she have let the Arabs suffer the loss of their homes to the Jews? No. Or Russia? No."

"In closing I ask you to remind your friends that the United States and Britain have bought hundreds of Arab personalities to work against the true Arab cause and to help break the Arab spirit. I ask you to urge the Arabs to bend all their energies against those scoundrels and to remember that God is with us."

1. Source Comment. Nasr is here referring to Kamal al-Sharif and the Permanent Islamic Council. For further information on this subject see CS-56414.
2. Field Comment. The opening of a new consulate in Arab Jerusalem by the Saudi Arabian Government has won much favorable attention, particularly among the Palestinians.

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