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FORM 104-60

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

ROUTINE

Intelligence Information Cable

COUNTRY PALESTINE / ARAB STATES

TDCS -3/575,266

DATE OF INFO. FEBRUARY 1964

DISTR. 10 MARCH 1964

SUBJECT

VIEWS OF THE EX-GRAND MUFTI AL-HUSSEINI ON THE PALESTINE QUESTION

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

ENGLAND, LONDON (10 MARCH 1964)

REF

IN 36310

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL

FIELD REPORT NO. CEL-37,505

OFFICIAL BRITISH SERVICE FROM A SOURCE DESCRIBED AS "WELL KNOWN, EXPERIENCED IN REPORTING AND RELIABLE, FROM A WELL PLACED INFORMANT."

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1. EX-GRAND MUFTI HAJ AMIN AL-HUSSEINI BELIEVES THAT PRESIDENT NASIR HAS IMPOSED AHMAD SHUQAIRI ON THE ARAB LEAGUE AS THE PALESTINE REPRESENTATIVE IN ORDER TO HAVE A DOCILE TOOL IN HIS HANDS. UNDER AMERICAN PRESSURE NASIR IS DETERMINED TO REACH A SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL AND KNOWS THAT THE ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE FOR PALESTINE WILL ALWAYS OPPOSE THIS.

2. THEREFORE, SINCE THE CAIRO CONFERENCE, AL-HUSSEINI HAS SENT EMISSARIES TO VARIOUS ARAB COUNTRIES TO POINT OUT THAT SHUQAIRI IS MERELY NASIR'S MAN AND DOES NOT HAVE THE BACKING OF THE PALESTINIANS THEMSELVES. HE HAS ALSO SENT LETTERS TO THE ORGANIZATIONS OF

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PALESTINIAN EXILES URGING THEM TO REMAIN TRUE TO THEIR COUNTRY'S CAUSE AND NOT BE TAKEN IN BY SHUQAIRI, THE PROTEGE OF THE PROTEGE OF THE AMERICANS.

3. AL-HUSSEINI'S MAIN IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS JORDAN WHERE HE BELIEVES THE ATTITUDE OF KING HUSAYN MAY DETERMINE WHETHER THE PALESTINIAN EXILES REMAIN SUPPORTERS OF HIS, AS THEY ARE AT PRESENT EXCEPT FOR THE NASIRITES, OR WHETHER THEY DEFECT TO SHUQAIRI. HE FEELS THAT IN HIS PRESENT PRO-NASIR MOOD, HUSAYN MAY TRY TO IMPOSE SHUQAIRI ON THE PALESTINIANS. AL-HUSSEINI HAS THEREFORE SENT AN EMISSARY TO HUSAYN WARNING HIM THAT, IN THAT EVENTUALITY, HE (AL-HUSSEINI) WOULD NO LONGER CONSIDER HIMSELF BOUND BY THE SECRET AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH HE ACCEPTED THE ANNEXATION BY JORDAN OF THE TERRITORIES ON THE WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN RIVER.

4. OF ALL THE PALESTINIAN EXILES, THOSE ON WHOSE CONTINUED SUPPORT AL-HUSSEINI FEELS HE CAN RELY WITH MOST CERTAINTY ARE THE CHRISTIANS, SINCE ALMOST WITHOUT EXCEPTION THEY ARE FEARFUL OF NARIR.

5. FIELD DISSEM: STATE CINCUSNAVEUR CINCEAFSA CINCSOUTH (PERSONAL).

END OF MESSAGE

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