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Jordan

[NJA-1568

Mufti Family Seeks British
Support

Aprx 20 May 1955

22 May 1955

Jerusalem

30 May 1955

HOSTEL - C-5

1. On approximately 20 May 1955 a small dinner party was held at the home of the local C.A.T. Co. representative, Nail Qubaisi,¹ in Amman. Present were British Ambassador Duke and Mrs. Duke, former Prime Minister and prominent Circassian leader Said Mufti and his wife and two brothers, Dr. Shamsat Mufti (Under Secretary of Health), and Rifa'at Mufti (Director of Passport Department) and their wives, plus Mr. and Mrs. Qubaisi.
2. Although held at Qubaisi's, this party was instigated by, and may have been paid for by, the Muftis. Their objective was to effect an opportunity for a private and informal effort to obtain the backing and support of the British Ambassador for Said Mufti, who has been out of official life since the resignation of Fawzi Mulqi's Government in May 1954 (he was then Deputy P.M.).²
3. Qubaisi was singled out by the Muftis because they had heard rumors that he was making disparaging and derogatory remarks against them. They felt that by getting him to act as host (he apparently was not in a position to refuse a direct request) they could put him in an awkward position in which he could no longer run them down after having acknowledged them as friends in the eyes of the British Ambassador.

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Station Comment:

1. Qubaisi [] . He has done many favors for members of the PBPRI community and has received nothing in return except the promise of being on cocktail party terms with important PBPRI officials. [] on the basis of the assumption that his ties with the British are very close. He worked, as a young man, for the British Consulate General in Jerusalem and later with the British Legation in Amman. His parent firm is British. He often entertains British MPs and other prominent Britishers during their visits to Jordan.
2. Mulqi's successor, Tawfiq Abul Huda, subsequently offered Mufti a job but they never actually came to terms. Then a real break occurred between the two during the election of October 1954. Mufti withdrew his candidacy accusing Abul Huda of illegal interference against him.

Of the three leaders regularly regarded as Abul Huda's opponents and possible successors (Mufti, Fawzi Mulqi and Samir Rifa'i), Mulqi and Rifa'i have recently accepted high level appointments in Abul Huda's Government - Mulqi as Court Minister and Rifa'i as Senator. The dinner party incident is apparently an effort to get Said Mufti back in the running on an equal level with Rifa'i and Mulqi.

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TO: DIRECTOR

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TO: DIR

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1. NOSTRI ETD AMMAN 6 JUNE.
2. CABLE PRITY DECISIONS:
 - A. PARA 5 NJAA 797.
 - B. PARA 3 NJAA 807.

END OF MESSAGE

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