

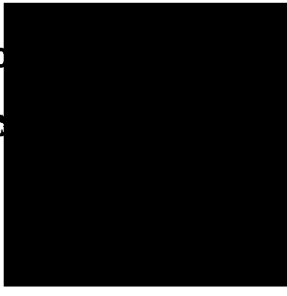
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT



COUNTRY Levant States/Iraq

DATE:

SUBJECT British and Russian Activity
Among the Druze

INFO. [Redacted] 25X1X6

DIST. 5 February 1947

ORIGIN [Redacted] 25X1A6a

PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

25X1X6

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1. Kamal Bey Jumblat, Druze deputy in Lebanese Parliament (Minister of Economy and Agriculture, as of 15 December 1946), is said to have stated that he had recently been approached by Soviet Minister Daniel Solod with the request that Jumblat should arranged a confidential meeting of the leading Druzes of Jebel Druze with Solod, who wished to have a talk with them as unobtrusively as possible.
2. Solod said he realized that the Druzes were the most powerful single force in Syria, and that he had been told on good authority that the British were stirring them up in favor of the Greater Syria plan. Jumblat is reported to have agreed to take the matter under consideration.
3. Jumblat has stated that the Druzes were not being given a chance to reflect long and soberly, and that the British were constantly applying pressure, particularly through the Muhafiz (Governor of Jebel Druze) Amir Hasan al-Atrash.
4. Badia Malik* has said that he was acting for the British, who were dissatisfied and wanted "reforms." Jumblat said that he told Malik that he was all for reform, but that if the British were behind the move, the responsible British officials should approach Jumblat directly, and not act through an intermediary, Malik.
5. In discussing British maneuvers, Jumblat said that now that Nuri Pasha al-Sa'id was back again in power in Iraq, his information was that Jamil Mardam, with British support, would soon replace Sa'dallah al-Jabri in Damascus, and that Riyadh al-Sulh would similarly form a new ministry in Lebanon; all three would then work to create circumstances "favorable" to the British.

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Notes: 25X1A6a

Jamil Mardam and Riyadh al-Sulh are the new Premiers of Syria and Lebanon, respectively.

Source cautions that Jumblat is a young man given to intrigues that never come off and that he is a great talker.

*Badia Malik was involved after the war in an unsuccessful plot against the government, and he helped obtain signatures to a petition demanding reforms.

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