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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

- On 14 January 1949 President Qunwattli of Syria, Amir Adil Arslan, Syrian deputy, and Lebanese lawyer Ilyas Hammur discussed the future policy of Syria in her relations with the Great Powers. They decided that Syria could not depend on, or conclude a treaty with, the United States because of the ties of the latter with Zionism; nor could Syria conclude a treaty with the Soviet Union because of the Communism of the USSR, and because Syria is within the Anglo-American sphere of influence. They felt that it would not be possible to conclude a treaty with Great Britain, because Britain's ambitions were not compatible with real freedom for Syria, and because of Britain's protection of the Hashinite Kingdoms. Therefore, the men concluded that a treaty with France would be less dangerous than with the other powers, provided that France would abandon her imperialistic ideas and treat Syria as an equal.
- These men decided to enter into direct negotiations with the proper French authorities concerning a military and political treaty, the provisions of which would defend the Syrian Republic in its present form against any aggressor. Ilyas Hammur was asked by President Qunwattli to ascertain from the French whether conclusion of such a treaty would be possible, and source stated that if these preliminary negotiations succeeded, the Syrian Government would begin official negotiations.
- Some influential Syrians, including Iuharnad Khalil Iuharris, wealthy merchant of Aleppo; Abd-al-Rahman Kayyalah, former deputy; and Ahmad Fu'ad Qudmani, Damascus lawyer, have been advocating the conclusion of an economic, military, and political treaty with Great Britain, provided that Syria remain an independent republic and not a part of Greater Syria. These men and their followers went to Damascus at the end of January 1949, and discussed with President Qunwattli and Prime Minister Khalid Azm the feasibility of a treaty with Great Britain. The President and the Prime Minister, according to source, supported the idea, but said that they were afraid such a treaty in its present form would be rejected by the Chamber of Deputies, because of anti-British public opinion. The members of the delegation, however, stated that they would try to win the support of the majority of the deputies for an Anglo-Syrian treaty.

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