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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Syria

SUBJECT Communist and Pro-Soviet Activities
in Syria

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A6a

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1. Despite the firmness with which the Syrian Government attempted to suppress Communism in Syria, there is evidence that the movement continues to be strong in Damascus, where Communists are still holding meetings and making a certain amount of progress. The Executive Committee of the Communist Party, as of 5 January 1949, was holding weekly and semi-weekly meetings in the home of Qadri Hakin, a member of the Party and a teacher in the National College for Girls. The Syrian Deuxieme Bureau discovered that at one of these meetings most of the Communists present were in the employ of the Syrian Government. Among those present were Hunir Sulayman,* Chief of the Damascus Provincial Office; Khalid Ali, an instructor in the Tajhiz (secondary) school in Damascus; and Antun Kardushy, a Palestinian refugee who is in charge of the Signal Section of the Syrian Army.

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2. [REDACTED] claims that the Deuxieme Bureau also has evidence that, not only are the local Damascene Communists in touch with representatives of the Soviet Union, but national figures are also in contact with the Soviets, Ahmad Sharabati, former Syrian Defense Minister, was, until his resignation from office, a protector of the Syrian Communist Party leader, Khalid Baghdash, and gave him refuge in a building which Sharabati owns. Sharabati also became acquainted with Soviet Minister Solod, through the former's business partner, Arif Totah. This acquaintance was at first purely social, but later developed into a mutually beneficial alliance of selfish interests, source states. Sharabati and Solod, or Solod's representative, meet in an office above the Hollywood Cinema, Place des Canons, Beirut, which had been rented by Totah, supposedly as an office for one of his business enterprises, but which is never used as an office, and is kept guarded at all times, source states.

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[REDACTED] Comment. Sulayman was described in March 1946 as a prominent member of the Communist Party who was advocating closer liaison between the Syrian Communist Party and the Soviet Union. In September 1947 Sulayman was said to be a brother of Shafiq Sulayman (one of Qunwattli's most trusted Lieutenants) and an intimate friend of Ahmad Sharabati. Sulayman's son-in-law is Ihsan Bey Sharif, Syrian Minister to Turkey.

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25X1A6a ** ~~SECRET~~ Comment. In July 1948 an untested source reported that a certain Iskander Kardush, a Palestinian Arab Communist, had recently arrived in Danascus.

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