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25X1A2g

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CD NO.

COUNTRY Lebanon

DATE DISTR. 8 March 1949

SUBJECT Soviet Intelligence Activities

NO. OF PAGES 25X1A2g

PLACE 25X1A6a

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF INFO [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1. Since the return of Daniel Solod, Soviet Minister to Lebanon, from Moscow in December 1948, bi-weekly staff meetings in Beirut are attended by Isaak Issagulov and Nikolai Vinogradov of the Soviet Legation at Damascus.
2. During the second week of January Feodor Pissarenko of the Soviet Legation in Beirut (who is, according to source, in the Legation's Press Section) was seeking information on the following subjects:
 - a. Text of a letter recently sent by Nuri Saïd, Iraqi Prime Minister, to the Syrian Government concerning proposed action on the Palestine problem.
 - b. The effect in political circles of Egypt's agreeing to discuss armistice terms with the Israelis, and the reception given the Rhodes discussions among local political circles and among opposition leaders and students.
 - c. Reactions of Lebanon and Syria to the dispatch of British troops to Akaba.
 - d. Whether there was any suggestion that the British intend to re-occupy the Arab districts of Palestine.
3. Aleksandr Sergeyev, the Tass agent at Beirut, has instructed one of his agents to notify him of the arrival of any Iranians coming from Iran. He stated that valuable information on American Military Aid to Iran and on the construction and equipment of airfields can often be obtained from these visitors.
4. Yusuf Minrebian, described as an Iranian from Isfahan, Iran, called at the Soviet Legation in Beirut on 13 January, where he was interviewed by Arshak Sarkissian.*

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DBA Memo 4 Apr 77
 Date: MAY 8 1978 By: 013

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5. Dimitri Mikhael Grankov, an engineer, arrived in Beirut from Tehran during January. He was accompanied by his wife, Louise, and a woman named Tamar Vassili Sharianov. After several visits to the Soviet Legation, the three left for Turkey.

25X1A6a [REDACTED] Comment. Sarkissian is an employee of the Soviet Legation in Beirut who has charge of Armenian affairs. He has the rank of "collaborateur"—a rank just below that of officer. [REDACTED]

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