

INFORMATION REPORT

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DATE DISTR 15 MAR 51

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COUNTRY Jordan/Arab Palestine

SUBJECT Activities of the Palestine Arab Workers' Society  
25X1A

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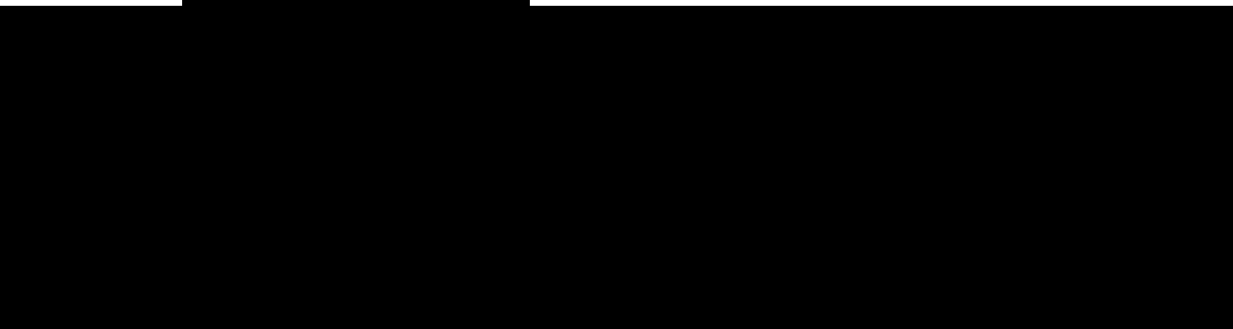
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



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1. [redacted] the Palestine Arab Workers' Society (PAWS)\* in Arab Palestine is carrying on continuous leftist activities. This labor movement, which represents 60,000 Arab workers all over Jordan (part of whom have joined the Histadruth organization in Israel), is directing and organizing the workers according to Karl Marx's program. The principal duty of these workers is to Bolshevize the refugees or to infiltrate their ranks.
2. Representatives of this movement have participated in international labor conferences in Paris, France, and Prague, Czechoslovakia. Although the PAWS suffered a setback when its General Secretary, Sami Taha, was assassinated in Haifa in 1947, it continued its struggle to realize the demands of the working class and to spread leftist ideologies. Its political efforts increased after the Partition of Palestine, the beginning of the refugee question, and the annexation of Arab Palestine by Jordan.
3. On 11 January 1951 the Higher Council of the PAWS held a secret meeting at its headquarters in Jerusalem. This meeting was attended by the secretaries of the branches in Arab Palestine and by other union representatives. Khalil Bitar, Muhammad Amin Shukayr, and 'Abd-al-Kerim Babas, all of whom are Jordanian leftists, attended the meeting, where the following decisions were made: That
  - a. an Executive Committee will be appointed, with 'Umar Khalil as Secretary and Shakib Dallal, 'Umar Sadiq, and Husni Khafash as members. Their duties will be to promote the labor union movement and to unite the workers to face the present serious international situation;
  - b. the Association's headquarters will be in Nablus and its main branch will be in Jerusalem;
  - c. Husni Khafash will be in charge of the Nablus headquarters and he will be assisted by a committee comprising Memduh Qanadil, 'Abd-al-Rahim Jitan, 'Abd-al-Wahhab Abwini, 'Abd-al-Rahim Fata'ir, Salim Zaki, and Shawqi Aghabi;

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 13 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.  
Next Review Date: 2008

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- d. 'Umar Sadiq will "manage the offices" and direct communist propaganda, with the assistance of Amin Shukayr;
- e. Zaidan Yunus will organize the union in Arab Palestine;
- f. Khalil Bitar, Secretary of the Union of Employees of Commercial Establishments in 'Amman, will organize all unions in Jordan;
- g. Sadiq, Yunus, and Bitar will educate the workers and spread political consciousness among them, in order to create hatred of the British and Americans. They will employ any means deemed appropriate;
- h. an effort will be made to encourage leftist newspapers and reviews in Jordan and to publish a newspaper for the direction of the workers;
- i. the Israeli communist newspaper, al-Ittihad, will be asked to spread propaganda for the labor organization in Jordan and to write political articles attacking the current situation in Jordan and the policies of the western democracies;
- j. measures will be taken to strengthen the cooperative movements among Middle Eastern workers;
- k. the abolition of foreign oil and economic concessions in Middle Eastern countries will be demanded. The workers will assume a passive attitude (sic); this will include demonstrations and the paralyzing of work in the oil fields in support of the countries whose workers are bearing arms to fight the United States in the Far East.
- l. the Jordanian Government will be asked to industrialize Arab Palestine.
- m. an attempt will be made to induce the Jordanian Government to hire workers only through the Society, so as to control the workers and the refugees.

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Comment. This labor movement, which was established in 1922, during the period of the British mandate in Palestine, openly combatted British imperialism, foreign countries, and took part in the Palestinian revolts. Its leaders were imprisoned during the Palestine revolt of 1936-39.

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