

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Syria/Lebanon
SUBJECT Greek Orthodox Church Election
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1. [REDACTED] the Holy Synod of the Antioch Patriarchate of the Greek Orthodox Church met in Damascus, Syria, on 16 May 1951. The discussion at the meeting chiefly concerned the coming election of the "Regent," (executive assistant) to Patriarch Alexandros Tahan. The three candidates being considered for the post are Atanasios Skaf of Zahle, Lebanon; Malatios Suwayti of Damascus; and Ilyas Barbari of Beirut.

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2. [REDACTED] the candidate favored by the Soviet Legation in Beirut is Ilyas Barbari. The Soviet Minister, Vasilii Belyayev, discussed Barbari's candidacy with Archbishop Ilysa Karam of Mount Lebanon when the latter visited him at the Soviet Legation in Beirut on 15 May.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

CLASSIFICATION [REDACTED]

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