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State Dept. review completed

Agreement between the Lebanese and Syrian Suretes will be Put into Operation the First of November

Syrian Jewish Refugees in Lebanon will be sent back to Syria.

According to the Damascus press, the recent agreement concluded between services of the Surete, of Foreign Affairs, and the Lebanese and Syrian Armies will be put into operation at the end of October or the First of November. The agreement consists of the following clauses:

1. Syrian Jews living in Lebanon and Lebanese Jews living in Syria will be sent back to their respective countries.
2. Foreign Jews living in Syria and Lebanon will be expelled.
3. The marriage of Lebanese or Syrians to Jews will be absolutely forbidden. All non-Jewish officials of Syria and Lebanon who are married to Jews will be retired.
4. Syrian or Lebanese Jews on voyages abroad will be invited to enter their country of origin upon expiration of their residence permit.

Le Jour

9 October 1948

Return to CIA Liaison

ENCLOSURE

1- Duplicate

Arrest of Zionist Informers

Surete agents have discovered the following Zionist informers among the Palestine refugees:

Elias TAWIL, originally from Haifa and a refugee in Marjay'un, was arrested in Beirut. He revealed the names of three of his accomplices:

Tawfiq SHANTI;

Abd-Muhammad ABD-AL-RAHMAN, on whom a check on Barclay's Bank was found;

Mamuel DIMITRIADES, who were all arrested.

Letters from Elias's brother, Tawfiq, were discovered during an investigation of Elias's home. Tawfiq TAWIL is a member of the Zionist Intelligence Service at Haifa.

Le Jour

9 October 1948

2 - Duplicate

Transjordan - An English Colony

Damascus--

Dr. Subhi ABU-GHANIMAH, President of the Executive Committee of the Congress of Transjordan Parties, sent the following message to the Secretary General and the member states of UNO:

"Although supporting the admission of Transjordan to UNO, the Executive Committee of Transjordan Parties earnestly begs you to intervene to put an end to British pressure which has made an English colony of Trans-Jordan and which has imposed an unliberal and inhuman constitution on it."

Le Jour

6 October 1948

3 - Duplicate

The Refugees' Critical Situation

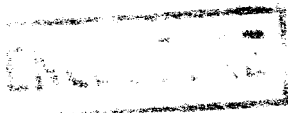
We have been informed from Bint Jubayl that three thousand refugees are still camping under the trees there. An Assistant of Mr. Raphael CILENTO, delegate of the International Red Cross, inspected the camps last Sunday and was able to see for himself the lamentable conditions to which the refugees are subjected.

We have also learned that the condition of the refugees in the region of Tyre should not be less worthy of pity. During one week, in fact, the hospital at Tyre cared for 1470 patients, of which seven had typhoid fever, eighty four dysentery, twenty eight pneumonia, three hundred eighty one trachoma, fifty six intestinal inflammation, seventy different fevers, 45 skin diseases, two hundred eighty nine malaria, etc.

The hospital sent an urgent appeal to the Permanent Bureau for Palestine in order to restock with pharmaceutical products and medical supplies.

L'Orient

6 October 1948



4 - duplicate

False Identity Cards

It has just been learned that numerous false identity cards were distributed, particularly at Juniyyah. The Director of Civic Status has asked the Minister of the Interior to suspend for forty eight hours the delivery of identity cards to replace lost ones, so that a special numbering is set up for this category of cards. The Minister of the Interior has agreed to this measure.

Le Jour

6 October 1948

ENCLOSURE 5 - Duplicate

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

STAT

October 9, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on October 9, 1948.BEIRUT

writes that the Lebano-Syrian economic sub-committee met yesterday and drew up a list of 23 items the importation of which is to be restricted; that the employees at the commercial sections of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Economics will work on Saturday and Sunday to count the licenses held by the Ministry of Economics; and that final agreement is expected to be reached before the middle of next week.

Muhyiddin an-Nasuli reports from Paris a press conference which Shertuk has recently held there. An-Nasuli who attended this conference among other newsmen declares that Shertuk assumed an extremely haughty and defiant attitude which was strongly resented by the Arab press representatives. He writes in part;

"In the past, Shertuk knocked at the UN doors pleading with tears. But he comes today as proud and arrogant as a lion. He feared us in the past but he charges today with weakness and impotence. What is worse than weakness and impotence? It is egoism, disunity and blind obedience to orders coming from above. On to action and on to earnest endeavor before we lose the opportunity."

AL HAYAT

Kamil Muruwaa analyzes the international situation from Paris and declares that despite the fact that the world is heading toward war, the Berlin crisis will not be its cause. He feels that Russia is anxious to deal with the Berlin problem by way of negotiation and procrastination until winter arrives when the bad weather will prevent the Western Allies from supplying Berlin by air.

AL-NAHAR

again discusses in its editorial the subject of the current Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations and urges the two governments to do their utmost to reach a permanent agreement for safeguarding their fundamental economic interests. This editorial is almost identical to the one this paper published yesterday.

AL-NAHAR reports that the Acting Prime Minister has denied rumors concerning Hamid Franjiah's resignation as Foreign Minister and said that these rumors were unfounded. He also denied reports that Camille Shamun has been approached on the subject of taking over the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the event Franjiah decides to resign.

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AL-BAYANQ

understands from a "reliable source that the Transjordan Government is determined to withdraw its membership from the Arab League as soon as any Arab Government recognizes the Ghaza Government. We expressed surprise at this news but our informant assured us that our surprise was unwarranted and this time would prove his statement. But we still doubt the matter and we therefore appeal to the Arab leaders not to allow disunity to infiltrate into their ranks but to unite themselves in the welfare of the Arabs as a whole."

AL-BAYANQ

dwells on the current Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations and declares that while all quarters in both countries are urging that economic unity is essential, no one seems to be making any wholehearted effort to place this unity on an equitable and permanent basis.

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

October 11, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on October 10, 1948.BEIRUT

Mayyiddin an-Nasuli, this paper's Chief Editor, tele from Paris on October 6 that King Abdullah had asked UNO to permit his representatives to attend the Political Committee's meetings when the Palestine question is submitted for discussion. An-Nasuli made the following comments in this connection:

"It thus appears that King Abdullah wants to say his say on the Fernadotte report which recommends the inclusion of the Arab part of Palestine in Transjordan. It appears, at the same time, that the King is not confident in the Arab delegates and leaders who are working day and night to maintain the unity of Palestine and to realize, as much as possible, the full aspirations of the Arabs. I do not know whether, by making this move, King Abdullah will realize his objectives. Because the Arab delegates in Paris will not share his views. They will, in fact, totally reject his proposal and will remind him of his numerous statements on the necessity of maintaining Palestine's unity. Moreover, the Russians and their satellites will stand in his way. Has King Abdullah forgotten that the Russians used the veto twice when the question of the admission of Transjordan in UNO was submitted and that their attitude toward him has not changed? They regard Transjordan as a British nest, no more, no less; and they look upon the territory to be annexed to Transjordan as British territory. I do not know whether the Russians are right or wrong in the matter! Whatever the case may be, we appeal to the King to unite with the Arabs, to exert his utmost efforts to maintain the unity of Palestine and to recognize the Palestinian Government which has been announced by the Arabs of Palestine and recognized by the Arabs. Palestine is on fire and the Palestinians are scattered. It is therefore our duty, now more than any other time, not to be weak and not to differ lest we fail."

An-Nasuli also sends two other despatches from Paris. In the first he welcomes Mrs. Roosevelt's statement: "I sincerely wish the solution of the Palestine problem be based on justice and the welfare of that country" and declares that "her clear and ringing voice revives our hope in America's adherence to the principles of justice which the American University has inculcated in us." Moreover, he writes that he has learned that the Egyptian Minister in Washington has wired a high Egyptian official to the effect that a great change has taken place in America's policy toward the Palestine question. This change is in favor of the Arabs. In the second despatch, An-Nasuli strongly resents Vishinky's behavior toward Faris al-Khuri at UN. He states in part:

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"I was deeply pained when Vishinsky addressed Faris al-Khuri with words that are not indicative of chivalry, humanity and a big heart, saying: 'I wish you continued good health. I wish if I could offer you the necessary treatment... Are you hearing me?' Faris al-Khuri was in the mean time sound asleep when the crowd burst into loud laughter. This is Vishinsky. He derides the venerable Faris al-Khuri because he does not share his views. Woe and thousand woes to political etiquette. Woe and thousand woes to Soviet etiquette."

In discussing the progress of the Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations, this paper refers to the visits of Musa al-Barak and Busson to President Bishara al-Khuri and states in part:

"A Cabinet Minister has informed our correspondent that the sub-committee has not reached any definite results, but has merely submitted its findings to the Governments. The last word rests with the Lebanese and Syrian Governments which will meet either next Tuesday or after the end of Id al-Adha. Our correspondent asked the Minister whether or not he was optimistic regarding the negotiations. The Minister replied that he was neither optimistic nor pessimistic... Our correspondent asked another Minister who replied that he was more optimistic now of the results than at any other time."

The paper then adds that a delegation from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry will meet President Bishara al-Khuri Monday to appeal to him to continue the customs and economic relations existing between Syria and Lebanon. This is the first time, the paper explains, that members of this Chamber are going to see the President since the beginning of the Lebano-Syrian negotiations early this month. The paper then concludes with the report that a telegram reached the Foreign Office yesterday from Riadh as-Solh calling for details regarding the progress of the Lebano-Syrian economic talks.

AL-BAYRAQ

complains that the Lebanon is being flooded by thousands of paupers and disease-ridden people from Turkey, from the desert, from beyond the desert and from the Kurdish mountains. The paper says that it is not complaining against the Palestinian refugees but against those who are entering Lebanon without the usual visa formalities. It therefore urges the appropriate authorities to be strict with all illegal immigrants, gives as example the severe restrictions imposed by the Arab countries on all aliens entering them, says Lebanon is poor and can not therefore afford to provide sustenance for thousands of homeless and penniless vagabonds "who are estimated at more than 50,000 in Beirut alone, 10,000 of whom are begging on the streets, spreading germs wherever they go." In this connection, AL BAYRAQ reveals that a census

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officials has recently sold Lebanese citizenship papers to a number of Palestinians wishing to join the oil company. It also refers to the sale of such papers to Kurds and Maronites and complains that these criminal practices are being committed while the authorities are refusing to grant Lebanese citizenship papers to 200,000 Lebanese who have temporarily left Lebanon in order to work and earn money beyond the seas.

AL-BAYRUT remarks on Riadh as-Solh's statement to the HOUSE of Paris regarding Lebanon's adherence to the Eastern Bloc, that the Lebanon is completely averse to joining such a bloc. It doubts whether Riadh as-Solh was serious in his statement to the French paper and hopes that he was merely maneuvering in the interests of the Arabs. However, the paper wishes to believe that as-Solh's maneuvers will meet with success "but this will not prevent us from declaring that Lebanon will adhere to its neutrality just as it adheres to its sovereignty and independence and that it does not want to join any Eastern or Western bloc so that it might remain as the abode of peace in this East."

This paper advocates economic separation from Syria "so long as we do not want Syria to encircle our economy with an iron ring. Lebanon has always lived in an atmosphere of free commercial intercourse with the outside world."

ASH-SHARQ

In reviewing the general progress of the current Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations, this paper declares that according to reliable information, a number of importers, such as Kettaneh and others, are endeavoring through their influence on certain quarters, to frustrate the efforts for renewing the economic union between Syria and Lebanon and to encourage the idea of economic and customs separation from Syria.

TELGRAPH

is against Lebanon joining the proposed Eastern Bloc. It declares that Pierre Jumayyel also holds the same view because he wants Lebanon to remain free, independent and friendly with all nations.

AL-DIYAR

writes in connection with Camille Shamun's recent visit to President Bashara al-Khuri that there are no differences between the Government and the opposition regarding principles "and principles here mean the broad outlines of the Government's policy, or the fundamental bases on which the state exists." But, the editorial explains, differences arise when "we move from the general principles to personalities and to the men responsible for these principles and for implementing the laws and regulations."

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on October 4, 1946.

DEBAT

Luhyiddin an-Nasuli, this paper's chief editor, wrote from Paris on September 30 that the Jews "were to be found everywhere in Paris: among the members of the UN delegations, among the heads of these delegations, among the overwhelming majority of the UN officials, among the statesmen, among the newsmen and among the Government officials." Thus, he continues, the Jews are exploiting the situation in Paris to the full while the Arabs, he complains, "have awakened belatedly."

"The Arabs must now change their plans and methods. They must depend upon God and upon themselves. If we lose our cause at UN, it should not mean that we must surrender to despair. But we must work, persevere, unite and devote ourselves to a struggle which might last one hundred or one thousand years. We have for a long time been belittling and scoffing at the Jews. We have been overconfident. And now we find that those who gave us bright hopes are abandoning us, are stabbing us in the back and are sponsoring Bernadotte's report - you know the contents of this report."

In a second despatch from Paris, Muhyiddin an-Nasuli briefly reports the proceedings of UN meetings, describes the social and political activities of the Arab delegates and declares in part:

"It appears that Abu Shahla insists on resigning from the Lebanese delegation to UN, despite Riadh as-Solh's persuasions to stay. Abu Shahla's resignation will be an irretrievable loss. We need men like him, particularly when the Palestine question is presented for discussion. We wish Camille Shamun were among the Lebanese delegates. We wish the Government had appointed him as a delegate. He would have continued his work for Palestine because he knows ~~so~~ ins and outs of its problem and because he is acquainted with most of the foreign delegates. But the shortsighted Lebanese policy has kept Shamun away from this field in which he excels."

BEIRUT has received the following communique from the Transjordan Legation in Beirut:

"On October 4, 1948, BEIRUT AL-MASA' published a despatch from its special correspondent in Paris to the effect that an Arab delegate to the present UN session has declared that the Transjordan Government suggested sometime ago that Haifa, Tel Aviv, Jaffa and Akra be given to the Jews provided the Arabs take over the whole of Safad, and that the responsible authorities in Transjordan were inclined to exchange Jews residing in Palestine for Arabs residing in Transjordan."

areas in Palestine. I am authorized to state that the Hashimite Transjordan Kingdom strongly denies this falsehood and declares that it has never proposed to any party any solution for the Palestine question and that it has never exceeded the resolutions of the Arab League Political Committee in regard to this question.

Minister Plenipotentiary of
the Hashimite Kingdom of Transjordan."

AL-HAYAT

Carries no editorial today. However, Columnist Basil Daqqaq complains that the Jews are energetically arming themselves while the Arabs are still pre-occupied with their endless differences. Columnist "Raqeb" refers to the 'Western Powers' efforts for a rapprochement with Spain and declares that "since the Great Powers are actively preparing for war, we should anticipate earnest efforts on the part of the West to include Spain in its orbit for the purpose of protecting its flank and safeguarding communication lines between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean."

This paper reports that after an absence of one month the AL-HAYAT newspaper will re-appear today.

AL-'ADAL

Pierre Jumayyil addresses an open letter to Edward Munnin in which he re-asserts the Phalanges devotion and service to Lebanon and declares in part:

"...you know that the doors of the Lebanese Phalanges are not closed to any one. I have often invited you and your colleagues to join us on the basis of our principles, all of which are already known. You realize how much we wish to share with the thinkers the responsibilities of work for Lebanon."

This paper publishes the follows:

"AL-DIYAR published in its yesterday's issue a statement which it attributed to Camille Shamun purporting to his agreement with the Government, the conditions stipulated by the opposition, the question of the Presidency et cetera. We have contacted Shamun who asked us to deny this statement. He emphasized that he has not met the representative of the foregoing newspaper and that he has never made such a statement to any one."

ASHIL-SHAMUN

which is now appearing in eight pages writes in connection with King Abdullah and Palestine that

"The Palestine question is in the hands of King Abdullah. Here is the door and here is its key. The Arabs must therefore use this key to enter the door so that they might strengthen their international position. We believe that they will do so."

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ASH-SHAWA publishes a long article under a banner headline entitled:

"Behind the Iron Curtain. Ukrainian Partisans Fight Red Army. Ukrainian National Army is Only Army in Eastern Europe Waging Warfare against Barbaric Communists."

AD-BIYAR

publishes the following interesting article which is translated below in full:

STAT

"The Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finance are confronted with a problem revolving around the dollars of the UNESCO delegates. The subject can be summarized as follows: The UNESCO has two items of expenditure: The first is known to the UNESCO administration and the second to its delegates. Both of these items have to do with American dollars. It has been agreed that the UNESCO administration hand over to the Lebanese Exchange Office all the dollars necessary for its expenditure in Lebanon against official Lebanese Liras. But the difficulties arise from the dollars held by the delegates. The delegates are not prepared to change their dollars in the Lebanese Exchange Office because they can sell them on the black market and thus derive great profits. But how could the Government permit the UNESCO delegates to bring in these amounts of dollars with them? This is prohibited by law. It was first argued that the UNESCO delegates enjoy diplomatic immunities. But this was refuted by the statement that the law applies even to diplomats whose funds are transferred by their governments through the Lebanese Exchange Office. However, another point arises here which is the main cause of the complications. When the Lebanese delegates attended the previous UNESCO conference, being desirous to have the conference held in Lebanon, they involved themselves in promises for extending many facilities, including permission for the delegates to bring their dollars with them. In order to avoid complications, the Foreign Office has written to the Ministry of Finance suggesting that the latter Ministry establish for UNESCO a temporary special branch of the Lebanese Exchange Office. This branch will buy dollars from the delegates at rates at least equal to those prevailing on the black market. We understand however, that the Ministry of Finance has regretted its inability to comply with this request because it is compelled to sell the dollars at the legal rate and because there is no justification for the Exchange Office to buy dollars at three and a half liras and to sell them at two liras and twenty piasters. In view of this situation, the Government is faced with the alternative of implementing the promises of its delegates. Thus, the Exchange Office will be denied these dollars which have allured the Government to expend so much funds."

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AN-NAHAR

devotes its editorial to the subject of the proposed Eastern Bloc and warns the Arabs that they must take their vital interests into consideration before deciding to join this bloc. In this connection, the editorial declares that the Arab countries have failed to exploit their position vis-a-vis the conflicting powers and adds:

"The Arabs still have occasions and opportunities which they must seize. They must receive from those wishing to befriend them the price for such friendship. If the object of our delegates in Paris is to save as much Arab rights as possible, their attitude toward the 'courtships' of the Eastern Bloc may be the best means for saving those rights."

This paper proudly announced that Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt has agreed to report to it her comments on the proceedings of the UN session in Paris. The paper introduced Mrs. Roosevelt as follows:

"She bears the name of a man who was unquestionably one of the greatest U.S. Presidents. She was his right hand and respected adviser. She has maintained, following his death, an ever increasing popularity. This is Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, member of the U.S. delegation to UN, whose articles are sought by the leading American and world newspapers. Mrs. Roosevelt has elected to provide AN-NAHAR, from among all the other Arabic newspapers, with her comments on the proceedings of the UN session in Paris. We offer the readers her first comment on Vishinky's recommendations..."

SAWT AL-AHRAR'S

editor, who ridicules the Syrian proposal that Lebanon restrict or stop the importation of certain commodities, emphasizes that restricted imports would "kill this country commercially... Beirut is a trading center and Lebanon can not adopt any policy which might kill its commerce"

SAWT AL-AHRAR'S correspondent understands from Gabriel al-Nur, the Acting Premier, that the Lebanese Government proposes to enact a law, similar to that in force in Switzerland, for extending protection to political refugees in Lebanon. This law, which will be drawn up by the Codification Committee at the Ministry of Justice before the end of this year, is calculated to make Lebanon an asylum for individual freedom and political beliefs among the entire Eastern countries. Al-Nur added that there are a number of political refugees in Lebanon whose extradition is demanded by their governments, including Fadhil al-Wartalani who has been accused of having taken part in the Yemen coup d'etat.

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There are also a number of Palestinian refugees whose surrender might be demanded by some of the neighboring governments. It is not fair on the part of Lebanon to surrender any political refugee seeking shelter and protection in it in order to gratify certain political tendencies from which Lebanon is far removed.

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

October 6, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on October 6, 1948.

BEIRUT

reports that the tension which has attended the Lebano-Syrian economic relations is now subsiding; that the two governments will meet at Shtaura today; that the Lebanese Government has prepared counter proposals which might be acceptable to Syria as a basis for the new economic agreement; and that during their meeting with President Fakhara al-Khuri the Lebanese merchants pointed out that any restrictions which might be imposed on imports would be greatly detrimental to their country's economic welfare.

The Government has issued the following communique:

"SAWT AL-AHRAR newspaper published in its issue No. 6105 dated October 5, 1948 a statement, attributed to the Acting Prime Minister, to the effect that the Government proposes to enact a law similar to the Swiss law for protecting political refugees in Lebanon and that there are a number of refugees in Lebanon, including Fadhil I-Wartalani, who are being demanded by certain governments. SAWT AL-AHRAR'S report is absolutely unfounded and the Acting Prime Minister has never made any such statement whether to SAWT AL-AHRAR'S representative or to others."

AL-HAYAT

In discussing the current Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations, this paper says that the Lebanese Government is optimistic of the results and quotes the Acting Premier as saying "whatever the case may be, the viewpoints of the two governments are not irreconcilable and the agreement will be signed shortly." However, AL-HAYAT'S Special Correspondent analyzes the situation in the following manner:

"It appears that the obstacle which is preventing the conclusion of the Lebano-Syrian economic agreements does not arise from differences in the viewpoints of the leaders of the two governments, as much as it arises from 'professional' animosities and conflicting interests of the merchants and industrialists. The merchants and the industrialists believe in the necessity of maintaining the economic union between the two countries. But the merchants, whether they are Lebanese or Syrians, oppose import restrictions, while the industrialists in both countries insist on restricting the imports in one way or another."

AL-AMAL

discusses the Lebano-Syrian economic relations and states that the merchants can not give objective views on the country's economy because each one of them is concerned with promoting his own particular line or interests. Thus, the editorial wishes that the problem be solved in the light of knowledge coupled with an understanding of the real nature of Lebanon's economic life. It argues that the economic union is not the ideal means for solving the existing Lebano-Syrian economic problems because, it continues:

"The customs union will inevitably cause one of the two parties to make full or partial sacrifices which will prejudice the party's independence and sovereignty. But there is another more successful method. The system of free commercial intercourse based on trade agreements is the system of the future. Why don't we base our relations with Syria on the principle of this system? Why don't we agree on it, while we are independent in our customs just as Syria is independent in its customs, to facilitate the movement of commodities and local produce free of all taxes? Why don't we agree on the protection of certain specific types of products if the two parties find that such agreement would safeguard their mutual interests? A number of powers are asking us to conclude beneficial trade agreements with them. We can not conclude such agreements and benefit from them if our economic fate continues to be tied to that of Syria and based on the system of common interests. We repeat again that we favor any system which would provide justice not only in the distribution of customs revenues, but in the benefits to be derived from the economic policy in force. If the customs union system would ensure such justice, we would support it."

STAT

The Central Refugee Committee which has been charged by the Lebanese Ministry of Interior to count the number of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, submitted its report yesterday. This report gives the number of the refugees in Lebanon as 73,332 distributed as follows:

Southern Lebanon	39,500
Beirut	15,000
Beka'	12,936
Northern Lebanon	3,265
Mount Lebanon	2,629
Total	73,332

The reports adds that there are between 12,000 and 15,000 refugees in Lebanon who are not needy and who do not receive any financial aid. Those receiving financial aid from the Central Committee number 12,100 refugees distributed as follows:

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Ba'albek	3,500
Qar'un	3,100
Miyamiya	2,500
'Anjar	200
Ablah	100
	<u>12,100</u>

The Committee declares in its report that a large portion of those who have not yet received aid have now become needy and are beginning to seek the Committee's assistance.

AL-'ANAL, like the entire Arabic press, reports Camille Sham'un's visit to President Bishara al-Khuri yesterday. It declares that nothing is known about the subjects discussed during that visit.

AL-BIYAR

publishes three telegrams from Hanna Ghosh, its Chief Editor who is now reporting the UN session in Paris. The first refers to Riadh as-Solh's meeting with . Spak the Chairman of the UN Political Committee and to as-Solh's delight because of Spak's appreciation of the Palestine question. The second mentions the receipt by Riadh as-Solh of a telegram from King Abdullah threatening the Arab delegates in Paris to withdraw his troops from Palestine if the Arab states would recognize the new Palestinian Government. The third describes Riadh as-Solh's 90 minute meeting with Mr. Bevin during which as-Solh stated that the Arabs were not prepared to accept Bernadotte's proposals or any proposals recommending the partition of Palestine. The talks also covered Anglo-Egyptian and Anglo-Iraqi relations. As-Solh was pleased with these preliminary discussions.

This paper reports that a delegation comprising three Syrian Surate General officials arrived in Beirut yesterday to consult with their Lebanese counterparts on the joint efforts Syria and Lebanon should make to combat espionage activities in both countries.

STAT

TELEGRAPH

well's in its editorial on the subject of opposition in Lebanon and declares that "the object of the opposition is not rebellion, revenge or any ~~sinister~~ sinister designs, but direction, struggle and reform."

This paper continues to publish letters and telegrams urging the Government to release the internees from the concentration camps.

AL-BAYRUT

again refers to the efforts that are being made in Paris and elsewhere for including the Arab countries in an Eastern Bloc to comprise Greece, Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan; warns the Arabs against involving themselves in any commitments with the Great Powers; and declares "for ~~xxx~~ one hundred and ten times" that Lebanon has no

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interests in joining any alliance or involving itself in any international dispute. The editorial then goes on to say "that Lebanon's vital interests demand that it continue to be a bridge of love and liberty between the East and the West on whose shores the waves of greed and animosity would break... Lebanon wants to maintain friendship with all the great and the small nations. Because of its cultural neutrality and geographical position, Lebanon is the natural mediator between the Arab and the Western world. What will prevent it from becoming one day a bridge for peaceful mediation between Russia and the Western powers?"

AL-NUSRA

Maron

Maron, this paper's editor, writes from Paris that the Arabs are going to lose Palestine because the Arab delegates there are not making any strong and energetic efforts to defend it. Maron deeply regrets Camille Chamoun's absence from the UN whom he thinks would have defended the Palestine question with his usual "vitality, energy and faith."

AL-ITTIHAD AL-LIBNANI

refers to the current Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations and declares in part:

"We favor the imposition of restrictions on imports and embrace this principle in Lebanon's economic policy but with some reservations because we do not know all of Syria's demands in this respect. This principle is worthy of examination."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

er 7, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on October 7, 1948.BEIRUT

On October 4, Muhyiddin an-Nasuli wrote from Paris that Premier Riadh as-Solh had wired King Abdullah appealing to him to recognize the new Palestinian Government and to set a high example in co-operation and unity "because many quarters at UN and elsewhere are interpreting his attitude in a manner not related to the reality." An-Nasuli then declares that Riadh as-Solh received a telegraphic reply from King Abdullah justifying his stand and stating that he was averse to recognizing the Palestinian government. In this connection An-Nasuli declares:

"No, this is not the time for disagreement and disension. This is not the time for ascending thrones or for dreaming of thrones while Palestine is strewn with corpses. This is the time for resistance, unity and action. The Jews are pointing here to King Abdullah's attitude toward Bernadotte's report and are weaving legends around it. They are picturing the Arabs as disunited. Are these the results King Abdullah has been anticipating? He is a man whose heart beats with love for the Arabs and Arabism. We beg King Abdullah to rise above worldly things, to place Arab interests before all other considerations and to recognize the Palestinian government."

An-Nasuli then predicts that Riadh as-Solh will send a long telegram to King Abdullah reminding him of his previous numerous pronouncements against the partition of Palestine and urging him to recognize the Palestinian Government. Finally, An-Nasuli states:

"I have had the opportunity of seeing Premier as-Solh discussing King Abdullah's telegram with Ar-Rawi (of Iraq) and Arsolan. They were bitterly disappointed with its contents. It is better for me not to mention the contents of King Abdullah's telegram because I hope that he will return to his usual wisdom and caution...."

This paper reports that Reverend Yohanna Maroun, who returned from Paris two days ago, has told its representative that the UNESCO Executive Council has invited the "fictitious" Israeli Government to attend the UNESCO conference as an honorary guest. The paper then makes the following comments:

"We do not doubt that the above fictitious government has already accepted this invitation. This will place the Lebanese Government in a very critical situation because it does not, under any circumstances, agree that the Israeli representatives take part in the conference. It is trying to seek an outlet from this impasse and to get rid of the ill-fated invitation the UNESCO Secretariate has extended to the Israeli state."

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BEIRUT reports that the representatives of the Syrian and the Lebanese Governments met at Hittaura yesterday, that the Lebanese side accepted restrictions on imports provided they are subjected to licenses; that the first obstacle impeding the agreement has been removed; and that there remains only the definition of the commodities to be subjected to import licenses.

Two days ago, President Bishara al-Khuri signed a decree providing that all newspapers and news agencies must submit to the Directorate of Press and Propaganda all newsitems and articles intended for publication. The Directorate shall refer this material to a special committee empowered to ban any reports it deems prejudicial to the interests of Palestine or the army.

AL-AWAL

again dwells on the subject of the current Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations and argues that it will be in the interests of both countries if each one of them will follow an independent customs and economic policy. The editorial feels that the economic and financial problems will continue to exist between the two countries so long as the economic set up of each one is entirely different from the other.

AL-NAHAR

states that reports emanating from Paris do not call for optimism regarding the solution of the Palestine problem in favor of the Arabs. In criticizing the Arabs for the mistakes they have so far committed in connection with the Palestine issue, the editorial declares in part:

"Suppose, for argument's sake, we admit that the Arabs have lost the battle politically and militarily, we should remember that this loss will not precipitate their international position. They still hold in their hands more than one card which are coveted by the great powers. Thus the scope for bargaining is still open and, despite everything, the Arabs still occupy an envious position."

Although AL-NAHAR is pleased with Camille Shamun's meeting with President al-Khuri, it hopes that the former will continue his opposition for the country's welfare. It may be mentioned in this connection that the entire Arabic press hails Shamun's meeting with the President as a sign of better relations between the opposition and the government.

AL-BAYRAQ

praises France for the peaceful role it is now playing in international politics, says that having tasted the sorrows and bitterness of wars France is against the outbreak of any hostilities in the future, and declares that the Arabs will

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its Foreign Minister's wise policy toward the Palestine question.

ASH-SHARQ

resumed its publication yesterday. It published in its editorial space a picture of President Shukri al-Quwatli with a short article entitled: "The Loyal Servant of Arab Causes and the First Pillar of the Legal Palestinian Government."

In its editorial, the paper declares that the new Palestinian Government has become a reality and it therefore suggests that this government take the following points into consideration:

- 1 - Not to conclude any political or military treaty with England
- 2 - Not to join UNO
- 3 - Not to join the Arab League immediately
- 4 - To establish firm co-operation with all the Arab and Eastern countries, to create suicide terroristic organizations for the purpose of exterminating traitors wherever they may be, and to infiltrate Arab Fifth Columnists into the heart of Israel for sabotage and assassinations.
- 5 - To hasten to mobilize all the Palestinian refugees with a view to resuming the fighting in Palestine.
- 6 - To staff its military, diplomatic, administrative and fiscal organizations with purely ~~nationalist~~ nationalist elements that have never been polluted by co-operation with anti-Arab foreign governments and that have never been influenced by neighboring governments that are enclaved by various imperialistic treaties.

AL-BUSNAD

This paper reports that the Charge d'Affaires of the Soviet Legation in Beirut yesterday called on the Director of the Lebanese Foreign Office and informed him of the transfer to another post of M. Solod, the Soviet Minister in Lebanon and Syria.

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