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U. S. RELIGIOUS DELEGATES VISIT THE GRAND MUFTI

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Subject: U. S. Religious Delegates
Visit the Grand Mufti

Report No: RLB-2138

Date of Information: Early
September 1950

Place Acquired: Beirut, Lebanon

Date Acquired: 15 Sept 50

Evaluation: Documentary

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Source: C J

1. The following is a translation from the original Arabic of a letter of limited circulation distributed by the Beirut office of the Arab Higher Committee during the early part of September 1950:

"His Grace the Mufti of Palestine and leader of the Arab Higher Committee has received at his residence in Misr al-Jadida, Mr. Carl McIntyre, President of the World Federation of Christian Evangelical Churches, together with a number of members of that organization. His Grace the Mufti welcomed the visitors and opened his conversation with them by saying that justice must not be divided and that it must include all in order that peace may reign.

"He pointed out the respect of the Moslems for Christ and His teachings, for divine religions, and for the places of worship of the various sects, saying that the Moslem East has always guarded and protected these places.

"He also pointed out the Jewish persecution of people who embrace other religions. As an example he mentioned the activities of the Jews in Palestine, where they have committed all kinds of atrocities against the Moslem and Christian inhabitants and where they have bombed the Aqsa Mosque and the Church of the Resurrection and destroyed hundreds of mosques in the part of Palestine they have occupied.

"His Grace told the delegation that the realization of justice and the removal of injustice are the only means of stabilizing peace in the Middle East. The Jews, who were a small minority in Palestine, have occupied the country by force of arms with the assistance of imperialism. This is injustice itself. It violates the democracy which the

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United States holds to, propagates, and defends throughout the world except in Palestine, where the Jews are allowed to expel an Arab people from their homeland by armed force and to rule that homeland despotically while no denouncing voice is heard from America.

"In the past the United States enjoyed a respected position in the Arab East as the supporter of liberty, as the center of knowledge and civilization, and as harboring no imperialistic ambitions such as those of the European powers, which unjustly and aggressively oppressed the East. The Arabs used to love America, but its oppressive and mistaken policy which helped the Jews to usurp Palestine has changed the feelings of the Arab world and turned it into an unfriendly feeling. I believe it your duty as peace lovers and upholders of right and justice (said the Mufti) to endeavor to change your government's mistaken policy and to urge it to follow the path of right and justice. You would thus serve America, the Arabs, and the cause of peace. Indeed you will save the Jews also, because the Arab and Moslem worlds cannot bear for long this challenge on the part of the Jews to the religious feelings of the Moslems and this unjust aggression against the sacred Arab homeland."

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