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I S R A E L

July 3, 1957

EGYPT'S DUPLICITY ON REFUGEES EXPOSED

Jerusalem (Israel), in Arabic to Israel and the Near East, July 2, 1957,
1515 GMT--M

(Talk by Lutfi Abu al-Wafa: How the Words of the Egyptian Rulers Differ
from Their Deeds in Regard to Refugees)

(Text)

Jamal Abd an-Nasir exploits the sufferings of the 100,000 refugees to attain his political and imperialist ambitions in the Arab countries. The Egyptian Government has lately noticed that a wave of complaints and uprisings against the Egyptian occupation authorities in Gaza has been sweeping the refugee camps so the Egyptian authorities have arrested the prominent figures in the Gaza sector and sent them to prisons in Cairo. Egyptian intelligence agents arrested a large number of the young refugees on charges of belonging to communist cells which were working against the Egyptian Government in the Gaza sector.

Fearing that the refugees might mutiny against the Egyptian rulers in Gaza, Jamal Abd an-Nasir sought at the same time to bring the refugee leaders to his side, by means of temptation and money. He thus brought Abd al-Khaliq Bassuna, the Arab League Secretary General, from cold storage, and sent him to Gaza with 20,000 Egyptian pounds from the Arab League budget, which suffers a chronic deficit, for distribution among the leaders of the refugees and the great supporters of Egyptian rule, in order to convince them that they would benefit by working with the Egyptian rulers. But the alleviation of the sufferings of the refugees as a result of hunger, poverty, and deprivation did not come to the mind of the Egyptian rulers or their emissary Abd Al-Khaliq Bassuna.

The latest story of these refugees and the greatest Egyptian agent, Haj Amin al-Husayni, is well known. The refugees went to the social and Palestine affairs administration at the Arab League to receive the monthly aid of 2 to 4 pounds which they had received in the past. The director of the administration, Imam Abd al-Majid, told them that the money allocated for their aid had been exhausted. When the refugees rose and threatened to stay at the Arab League headquarters until they were paid, Imam Abd al-Majid asked them to go to see Haj Amin al-Husayni, the former mufti of Palestine, who would probably pay them something, though it might be a trifle, out of the huge contributions which he received in their name from the governments of Pakistan and Indonesia.

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When the refugees responded to the advice, they went to the palace where their compatriot Haj Amin al-Husseini lived at Az-Zaytun in Cairo, believing that he would show them sympathy and give them help. But their hopes were frustrated when Haj Amin al-Husseini refused even to meet a delegation from among them. In the face of this they decided to go into the garden of his house. He then called the police who dispersed them by force from the garden.

Thus the refugees knew that Haj Amin al-Husseini, his entourage, and Ahmad Hilmi Pasha, the head of the All-Palestine government, were working for the Egyptian Government, serving its aims and enjoying the money collected in the name of the Palestinian refugees.

Lt. Col. Jamal Abd an-Nasir and men of his intelligence service exploit the conditions of poverty, misery, and sufferings of the refugees to force them to commit crimes and assassination to serve the Egyptian rulers, not only against Israel but also against the Arab states. Thus the name of the Palestinian refugee became associated with acts of assassination, destruction, trouble, and disturbance of the peace of the Arab states, in Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and even in Jordan.

To give an idea of the sufferings of the refugees, we quote here to the respected listeners a statement contained in a very secret official document, signed by Brig. Sayf al-Yazal Khalifah, director of Egyptian military operations. This document is one of many seized by the Israeli defense army during the battle of Sinai.

The Egyptian official secret document which bears reference number 1-3-13 and the date Mar. 20, 1954, stated: "These people; namely, the Palestinian people, have lost their morale for good. Since 1948, they have been living in poverty and misery which has had a direct effect on their morale and thus they can be considered to have lost all their morale."

On the other hand, the government of the officers in Cairo is very keen on not allowing the Arab refugees to migrate into the Egyptian hinterland, where they could find work which would save them from the evils of poverty and need.

In accordance with this Egyptian policy, Brig. Mahmud Sayf al-Yazal Khalifa suggested the following measures in the aforementioned secret report. We carry his suggestions from the report word for word.

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Brig. Khalifa suggests first the establishment of complete camps for immigrants in Sinai, and then the transfer of these refugees under the supervision of the Egyptian authorities to these camps, at a suitable time, thus controlling them and preventing them from infiltrating into the Egyptian hinterland. Then these refugees should be encouraged to emigrate to any place they wish.

Brig. Mahmud Sayf al-Yazal Khalifa goes on to say in his secret report that the deteriorating morale among the people of the Gaza sector, both of the refugees and the residents, have caused them to believe that the Arab states are the ones that lost Palestine and that it is not their duty to participate in any war launched by the Arab states to retrieve Palestine. This, in addition to the conditions of poverty and misery from which they suffer, encourages them to cooperate with the enemy.

This is exactly what was said by an Egyptian officer who has a most important post in the Egyptian army and in the Arab joint command. From this we can see that the military rulers of Egypt who pretend to shed tears for the refugees only wish to transfer these refugees into the deserts of Sinai, not with the idea of allowing them to settle there and improve their conditions, but because they now form a fifth column which cannot be trusted. The Egyptian military rulers would then try to persuade them to emigrate abroad in order to get rid of them.

In addition to the poverty and need from which the 200,000 Palestinian refugees suffer in the Gaza sector, they are living in an atmosphere of terrorism imposed by Egyptian intelligence agents and spies who watch every movement they make.

The Egyptian intelligence administration recently sent to Gaza an envoy, Abd al-Ati Mahmud, to contact the Palestinian refugees. He claimed to be a correspondent of the Egyptian newspaper AL-JUMHUR YOMI. This imposter made the Palestinian refugees believe that he was sent by his paper to transmit through it to the officials in Cairo all their complaints and demands.

The result of this visit was that Abd al-Ati Mahmud wrote a report to the public intelligence administration which led to the arrest of a large number of educated refugees on charges of being members of communist organizations or of committing acts against the Egyptian occupation authorities in Gaza.

This is with regard to the Gaza sector. As for Egypt, the few educated refugees who live in Cairo and Alexandria feel they are surrounded by a net of spies who watch every move they make. One of the public intelligence administration recently arrested Mahmud Ahmad Dammari, a Palestinian refugee who was working at the Credit Lyonnais Bank in Cairo, because he said something which the police considered to be defamatory against Jamal Abd an-Nasir.

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We must mention that Lt. Col. Jamal Abd an-Nasir not only exploits the needs and poverty of the Palestinian refugees, but also exploits the refugees from the countries of North Africa. The Egyptian intelligence administration has been using Yunis Barhounah, who is a Tunisian refugee in Egypt, to spy on the activity of Tunisian refugees. It also used Ash-Shadhili al-Marrakishi to provide it with reports on the activity of the Moroccan refugees in Egypt.

Muhammad Laki ad-Dabagh, a Palestinian refugee who works as a teacher of photographic art at the American university in Cairo, has refused to be exploited for these foul aims. This led the Egyptian public information office to refuse to grant him a press card even though he is a correspondent of the Tunisian newspaper AL-ALAM.

Even the students who are studying in Egypt have not been saved from the oppression of the Egyptian intelligence administration. It appointed Mahmud Abu Huwar, who is a student at the American university in Cairo, and a brother of Gen. Ali Abu Huwar, the chief of staff of the Jordanian army who sought refuge in Egypt recently, to spy on the activities of his Jordanian and Palestinian student colleagues.

From all this, and from the secret document, the listener can see that the government of officers in Egypt is exploiting the Arab cases to foster its own aims. It is also using the refugees as an instrument to cause trouble and riots and to carry out its imperialistic plot in its sisterly Arab state. At the same time it devotes all its broadcasting potentialities and the bugles of its propaganda to shed tears for the refugees and to appear as the savior of the refugees.

ISLAM RESENTS NASIR PROPAGANDA ORGAN

Jerusalem (Israel), in Arabic to Israel and the Near East, July 2, 1957,
1115 GMT--M

(Text)

One of the decisions adopted by the Jordanian cabinet yesterday provides for the issue of a scientific-religious publication mainly designed to combat propaganda disseminated by Col. Anwar as-Sadat, secretary of the Islamic conference of Cairo, on behalf of President Jamal Abd an-Nasir and the present Egyptian regime. This propaganda appears in the periodical issued by the Islamic conference of Cairo entitled "News from the Moslem World."

Cairo reports also say that the latter publication is not welcomed by Islamic circles in the Moslem world because of propaganda it contains in favor of the present Egyptian regime, and also because the Cairo Islamic conference interferes in politics. These reports add that the secretariat of the Cairo Islamic conference receives back hundreds of envelopes containing its publications which are returned unopened by Islamic organizations in the Moslem countries.