

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- P 1 -

LEBANON

Mar. 6, 1961

FBIS -
#43 - 1961
6 Mar. 1961

HUSAYNI DENIES LINK TO NAZI ATROCITIES

Beirut, ANA, in Arabic to the Near East, Mar. 4, 1961, 1300 GMT--M

(Summary) Beirut--Al-Haj Amin al-Husayni, chairman of the Arab Higher Committee and former mufti of Jerusalem, has categorically denied any connection with the persecution of Jews in Germany during the Second World War. He said at a press conference today that all allegations in this respect were baseless and that they were prompted by Zionists' enmity toward him and the Palestinian national movement.

Al-Haj Amin distributed a statement which appeared to be a reply to a book recently published by American writer Quentin Reynolds on the Nazi leader Adolf Eichmann. This writer alleged that Al-Haj Amin had had several contacts with Eichmann, who toured concentration camps with him so that he could see for himself how the Jews died.

In his statement, Al-Haj Amin said that he did not know Eichmann and that he had no connection whatsoever with him. Al-Haj Amin added that neither he nor any other Arab had plans in the past or at present to annihilate any race, Jews or others. He said: "Our plan is to prevent the Jews from harming our cause. We did not harm the Jews in the past-- on the contrary, they usurped our country and deprived 1 million Palestinians of their homes and committed atrocities against them."

Forced to Go to Germany

Beirut, ANA, in Arabic to the Near East, Mar. 4, 1961, 1510 GMT--M

(Text) Beirut--Al-Haj Amin al-Husayni said that the fate which befell the Jews during the Second World War was the result of many grudges held against them by the Germans. He, himself, went to Germany about the end of 1941, after the Nazis had adopted their measures against the Jews. He was forced to go to Germany because Britain pursued him and exerted pressure on states within its sphere of influence to prevent him from residing in their territories.

Al-Husayni added that the persecution of Jews by Nazi Germany served the Zionist cause and harmed the Arab cause, for it helped strengthen Jewish demands in Palestine and brought them sympathy from world public opinion. Al-Husayni spoke in detail about the recent incidents in Palestine. He said that what the Jews have done there is similar to what the Nazis did to them in Germany, and that their activities still

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2008

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- P 2 -

LEBANON
Mar. 6, 1961

continue. He said that the Arab Higher Committee will demand that the Zionist leaders responsible for these actions be tried like the war criminals at Nuremburg, and Eichmann.

Al-Busayni was asked whether it was possible to know the actual charges levelled against him. He said that some people demanded that he be tried as a war criminal, because, according to them, he participated in the incidents perpetrated against the Jews in Germany. He was asked where these people want him to be tried. He said that he learned that there was an idea to kidnap him and to bring him to trial with Eichmann.

Asked whether there was any inclination to form a Palestinian provisional government on the lines of the Algerian provisional government, Al-Busayni said that consultations were taking place to form a Palestinian machinery (jihaz) and that the name of this machinery and its structure has not, yet been exactly defined at this time.

In reply to another question, he denied that there were any differences between the Arab Higher Committee and the UAR, as reported by some newspapers in Beirut. He said: "There is every cooperation as with the other Arab states. A delegation representing the committee visited Cairo three weeks ago to discuss the projected Palestinian machinery and the discussions were conducted in an atmosphere of friendship and frankness."

Asked whether he considered that the Arab Higher Committee represented all Palestinians, Al-Busayni replied in the affirmative.

- 0 -

SUSPENSION OF AN-NAHAR--The government has suspended the newspaper AN-NAHAR from publication for three days for publishing articles and pictures in Mar. 5 issue considered by the authorities to be an "instigation against the safety of the state." Ghassan Tawayni is director of the newspaper. (Beirut, ANA, Mar. 6, 1961, 0945 GMT--M)

INTERNATIONAL POLICE--The government is considering approving establishment of an independent international police, Interpol, office in Beirut to specialize in combatting smuggling and counterfeiting, provided this office includes men from the Lebanese police force. (Cairo, MENA, Mar. 5, 1961, 0927 GMT--M)

PRESIDENT AYUB KHAN of Pakistan spent 40 minutes in the Beirut international airport Mar. 5 while enroute from Karachi to London. He was welcomed by Premier Salam, Foreign Minister Taqla, and the ambassadors of the Commonwealth countries. (Beirut, ANA, Mar. 5, 1961, 1510 GMT--M)