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Box 59, Folder 10, Harrisburg six - Iqbal Ahmed, 1971.



CONFIDENTIAL

February 12, 1971

Seymour Samet

Milton Eilerin

The Harrisburg Six - Eqbal Ahmad

We have just become cognizant of a bizarre facet of this widely publicized case which, you will recall, involved the arrest of Father Philip Berrigan, two other Roman Catholic priests, an ex-priest, a nun and a Pakistani scholar. The six were charged with conspiring to blow up heating tunnels in Washington and to kidnap Presidential advisor Henry A. Kissinger.

It is the involvement of the Pakistani scholar - Eqbal Ahmad - which arouses our interest at the moment. Ahmad, a Muslim, has been an ardent vocal and passionate pleader for the Arab cause. He is reputed to have been an adviser to the Algerian revolutionists and as Ali Baghdadi, a high official in the prestigious Arab-American University Graduates Association, has declared: "His brilliant dynamic mind makes him an authoritative spokesman on the Palestinian issue. Our files reflect that he has contributed at least two vitriolic, anti-Israel, anti-U.S. articles to Free Palestine, a publication with strong Al-Fatah-Arab guerrilla sympathies.

Some of Ahmad's speeches reflect an intense hatred of the United States, President Nixon and Henry Kissinger, the latter because he is considered to be pro-Zionist and helping to influence U.S. policy in favor of Israel. Because of his ardent defense of the Arab cause a special Eqbal Ahmad Defense Fund, P.O. Box 127, Wilmette, Illinois has been created and is chaired by Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, a well known pleader on behalf of the Arab cause, as well as other Arab and pro-Arab sympathizers, all of whom appear to be college professors. Baghdadi, the author of a regular "Middle East Report" in Muhammad Speaks - official Black Muslim publication - is also soliciting funds through the Legal Defense Committee on behalf of Ahmad.

I do not know Ahmad's relationship to the others charged in connection with the plot to kidnap Kissinger, therefore I cannot say whether or not he solicited their help or they solicited his help, a fact which presumably will come out during the course of the trial.

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From a confidential source, who in the past has provided us with reliable information, we learned that Ahmad has been preaching violence for a long time and that he was involved with a group which contemplated kidnapping Ambassador Rabin in Washington. I do not know if this group is the same, whole or in part, that is currently under indictment. It is our informant's opinion that when the contemplated kidnapping of Rabin became impractical (why we do not know) it was then decided to kidnap Kissinger whom Ahmad and some of his associates believe to be the highest liaison between Israel and the U.S. government.

It may well be that this case, widely reported as being an expression against the U.S., had the added dimension of a protest against U.S. support of Israel.

Information about the plan to kidnap Rabin, and Ahmad's anti-Israel, pro-Arab background has been made available to U.S. and Israel authorities.

ME/lk

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