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American Zionist Emergency Council, Epstein, Eliahu, 1945-1946.

C O P Y

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Elishu Epstein

November 9, 1945

FROM: J. Algasi

SUBJECT: Report on Arab Activities in Latin America

According to general information received from the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Chile, Mexico and Paraguay, we can deduce that there does not exist an organized anti-Zionist Arab movement in these countries. The activities of the Arab societies in these countries appear to be of a social character and only in two countries - Chile and Bolivia - are there anti-Zionist Arab organizations. However, here too there is no systematic activity. There is the belief that all the (social) organizations of Arabs have contacts with the Arab Legations in Washington and this can lead to the stimulation of anti-Zionist propaganda on the part of the Arabs in Latin America.

In such a case we have to bear in mind the following factors:

- 1.a. The position of the Arabs in Latin America shows some factors in their favor in case of an anti-Zionist campaign. In most of the countries of Latin America the Arab communities have in their midst very influential people in the financial life and this gives them the opportunity of reaching the most important political and financial circles. This fact was proved in Chile when the Pro-Palestine Committee of this country was organized. (See Chile in appendix)
- b. The Arabs came to the Latin American countries many years before the first wave of Jewish immigration and they are deeply rooted in the national life of these countries. The peoples of Latin America, as you know, have a great affinity to the Christian Arab population there because of the similarity of religion and historic background.
- 2.a. With regard to the position of the Jews in Latin America we note from the answers received to our questionnaire the political immaturity of our Zionist friends in Latin America.
- b. The Zionist movement does not have the necessary machinery for developing the required counter-acting activities.
- c. There is a great insufficiency of funds required for propaganda and organizational purposes.

Should the Arab Legation in Washington organize, support and direct a program of anti-Zionist propaganda in Latin America, the Zionists in these countries are unprepared to counteract efficiently their harmful effects. We will lose a great part of the magnificent machinery organized with the creation of the Pro-Palestine Committee and all the ground won in the political and government

circles during the last year. It is difficult to conceive that satisfactory work in this respect could be directed from New York, Washington or Jerusalem. The Zionist leaders in the Latin American countries are in need of political education. It is impossible to develop an efficient program with voluntary workers, no matter how well-intentioned, but who do not have the time and the necessary preparation. It is, therefore, indispensable to send official Zionist instructors to organize all the work that will be necessary.

It is further necessary to increase the distribution of literature regarding all phases of life in Jewish Palestine in comparison with the daily lives of the peoples in the Arab States. We should send motion pictures, statistics, and other material and to increase the active work through the Pro-Palestine Committees. All this material should be sent out in great quantities in Spanish; also the instructors should speak Spanish.



APPENDIX

BOLIVIA

Arab Population 5000

Moslems	1000
Christians	3900
Druzes	100

There are two Arab organizations in Bolivia - "Comite Patriotico Arabe" and "Propaganda Pro Palestina" with a clear political aim and it is quite certain that they have contacts with the Arab Legation in Washington.

In the last few years several articles, paid for by the Arabs, were published in La Paz (Bolivia's capital), as a reaction to the organization of the Instituto Cultural Boliviano Hebreo (organization similar to the Pro-Palestine Committee). Also several anti-Zionist items were broadcast during a six week period recently. The Parliamentary representatives of one of Bolivia's districts introduced a bill for the establishment of diplomatic relations with Syria and Lebanon. The Bolivian Zionists feel that this is due to the Arab influence although they do not have proof of it.

In this country the press is ready to sell the necessary space to anyone who pays for it.

ARGENTINA

Arab population is 300,000, the majority of whom are Christians and very few Moslems and Druzes.

All the Arab organizations in this country are of a cultural and social character.

The following Arab newspapers are published in Argentina - "Diario Sirio Lebanes," "Azzaman," "L'Eco de l'Orient". Smaller publications are in the interior of the country.

A few years ago, an Italian Fascist agent, a Dr. de Stefani, came to this country on his tour of the South American continent for cultural propaganda through lectures. He was in close contact with some of the Arab organizations and papers.

There are small groups affiliated with the "Pan-Arab Congress" which occasionally publish some anti-Zionist pamphlets.

COLOMBIA

Total Arab Population - Not known.
Syrians and Lebanese - from 3,500 to 4,000,
the majority of whom are Christians.

The only Arab organization in Colombia is the "Colombo Lebanese" and has contact with the Lebanese Legation in Washington. One of the purposes of the society is to acquaint the Colombians with matters related to the Middle East about which there is very little known among Colombians.

APPENDIX (cont'd)

CHILE

When the Pro-Palestine Committee of Chile was organized, among others, Dr. Arturo Alessandri, former president of Chile and delegate to this country to the San Francisco Conference, joined the Pro-Palestine Committee. The Arabs began their campaign in the local press by publishing a series of anti-Zionist articles and organized a committee called "Pro Patria Palestina." The influence of the wealthy Arabs in this country is very powerful and for this reason they succeeded in some way to lead to the withdrawal of Dr. Alessandri from the Pro-Palestine Committee. Their influence extends to other portions of the Chilean population.

CUBA

The Arab population is 15,000, most of whom live in Havana (capital city of Cuba). The majority of them are from Lebanon and Palestine and are for the most part, Christians.

They have five to six societies in Havana and one in Santiago (Cuba's province). The aims of these societies are only social and philanthropic; we have never heard of any political activities on their part. There was no reaction from them when the Cuban Pro-Palestine Committee was organized. The Arab population as a whole is a very propitious field for anti-Semitism and agitation against Zionism.

Two Catholic priests from Lebanon visited Havana who claimed they were sent by the Pope and developed a great deal of activity among the Arabs.

GUATEMALA

Arab population is 250 to 300, all of them Catholics.

Recently an Arab newspaperman visited this country from Chile with the aim of uniting all the Arab communities in the American continent.

The visit of Dr. Shutkin from the E.K. provoked a series of anti-Zionist articles from the Arabs in the local press.

MEXICO

An Arab newspaperman recently visited Mexico for propaganda purposes among the Arab population.

PARAGUAY

The Arabs in Paraguay are on a very low cultural level - almost ignorant - but due to the immense fortunes which they have amassed, they have been able to ingratiate themselves into the favor of Government elements. In this respect they could become very dangerous to the Zionist cause. Moreover, since they are mostly Christians and do not possess their own churches or their own spiritual leaders,

they attend the national Catholic churches where they have friendly relations with those they find convenient to them.



No. 52

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. Nahum Goldmann

November 11, 1945

Elishu Epstein

SUBJECT: U.S.S.R.'s Activities in Syria and Lebanon.

Attached is a copy of a confidential report dealing with the Russian activities in Syria and Lebanon. The report comes from a reliable source and can be used for our own information only. It confirms some of the material which reached us recently from other sources.

I call your attention to paragraph 4 on page 2 which contains a reference to Russian attitude towards Zionism and Palestine. The growing tension in the Middle East supported, or at least exploited, by the Soviet Government requires, in my opinion, our taking every possible step to approach, as soon as possible, the Soviet Government for a direct contact and a discussion of our problem with their highest authorities, if possible, in Moscow. Our political activities, which were concentrated for the last few months around London and Washington, could be interpreted by the Soviet Government as ignoring entirely their possible interest in our problem.

The Arab activities in this field coupled with the Russian interest in the Middle Eastern situation requires prompt and immediate action on our behalf in this matter.

EE:rk

Attachment - 1

CC: Dr. Wise
Dr. Aksin for Dr. Silver and Mr. Shapiro
Mr. Lipsky
Messrs. Lourie and Weisgal
Mr. Shertok

C O P I E

Au moment de la formation du dernier ministère Farès Khoury à Damas, Faiez Bey Khoury, frère du Président du Conseil, récemment nommé Ministre de Syrie à Moscou, est rentré précipitamment dans la capitale syrienne. Son retour a fait l'objet de nombreux commentaires. Il a été suggéré, en particulier, que Faiez Khoury ne désirait pas recevoir ses ordres de Michel Elian, l'actuel ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Quoi qu'il en soit le représentant syrien en U.R.S.S. a fait à la presse un certain nombre de déclarations concernant l'attitude soviétique à l'égard de la Ligue Arabe: "Moscou encourage les tendances de la Ligue, a-t-il dit, et espère que cette dernière pourra agir en vue de libérer les nations arabes du joug de l'étranger. Moscou a une politique basée sur la libération des nations opprimées à condition que celles-ci de leur côté agissent pour recouvrer leur souveraineté."

Par ailleurs, et d'après une source généralement bien informée, Faiez Bey aurait fait au Président de la République Syrienne un exposé détaillé sur le point de vue russe à l'égard des manœuvres anglaises en cours au Moyen-Orient.

Considérant que les Britanniques cherchent à l'heure actuelle en Syrie et au Liban à constituer une base d'action dirigée contre la Russie, le Gouvernement de Moscou se verrait contraint d'attirer l'attention de la Syrie sur les points suivants:

1o- Dans le cas où la Syrie consentirait à négocier avec la Turquie en vue d'une alliance politique, le Gouvernement de Moscou

prendrait des mesures en conséquence, c'est-à-dire qu'il adopterait envers la Syrie une ligne de conduite dictée uniquement par ses intérêts supérieurs sans prendre en considération l'indépendance syrienne.

20- Au cas où la Syrie agirait conformément aux vues de Moscou le Gouvernement de l'U.R.S.S. lui promettrait de la soutenir, par tous les moyens en son pouvoir, afin de lui faire recouvrer le Sandjak d'Alexandrette.

30- Le Gouvernement de Moscou verrait d'un mauvais oeil tout consentement de la part de la Syrie à substituer à son régime républicain actuel un régime monarchique.

40- La transformation de la République Syrienne en un royaume, malgré l'agrandissement géographique éventuel qui en résulterait, serait considérée par Moscou comme la destruction de fait et de droit de l'indépendance syrienne au seul profit des ambitions de la diplomatie britannique et du sionisme en Palestine.

50- La conclusion de la part de la Syrie de tout traité avec une puissance étrangère, reconnaissant à celle-ci une position privilégiée en Syrie, ou de tout autre pacte à caractère politique signé avant la Conférence de la Paix, serait considéré par l'U.R.S.S. comme un acte dirigé contre ses intérêts supérieurs au Moyen-Orient.

60- Le Gouvernement de Moscou aurait réitéré ses engagements envers la nation syrienne, en tant que république souveraine et tant qu'elle maintiendrait le statu quo politique et se refuserait à suivre les traces de la diplomatie britannique.

Faiez bey el Kheury aurait enfin ajouté que selon les indications et impressions recueillies par lui à Moscou il lui paraissait certain que la Russie était déterminée à s'opposer à toute médiation

Good! B.G.

nonseu! B.G.

de structure politique qui serait apportée à la Syrie, au Liban, à la Palestine ou à la Transjordanie, à moins que le Gouvernement russe ne reçoive des compensations en Iran, en Turquie ou dans la mer Egée. Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de Syrie aurait remis au Chargé d'Affaires de l'U.R.S.S. une mise au point qui constituerait une sorte de réponse aux communications dont aurait été chargé Fares Khoury. Dans cette note le Gouvernement syrien se déclarerait désireux de rendre de plus en plus fructueuse son amitié avec l'U.R.S.S. et affirmerait qu'il n'est pas en pourparlers avec le Gouvernement turc en vue de conclure un pacte politique et qu'il n'est nullement dans ses intentions à l'heure actuelle de se lier par une alliance à la Turquie. Le Gouvernement de Damas rappellerait en même temps au Gouvernement soviétique que dans le domaine extérieur sa politique demeure étroitement liée aux grandes lignes tracées par le Conseil de la Ligue Arabe.

Fares Khoury considérerait que cette note constituerait la première étape d'une évolution importante qu'il désirerait voir suivie par la politique syrienne. Il estimerait, en effet, que devant le risque d'un rapprochement franco-britannique il serait prudent pour son pays de se mettre à la recherche d'un "garant" qui ne pourrait être autre que l'U.R.S.S.

S. Silver

No. 50

Dr. Nahum Goldmann

November 11, 1945

Eliahu Epstein

The following statement was issued by the Arab Office in Washington and released for publication to the press:

Statement by the Arab Office

Mr. Shukairy, Director of the Arab Office at Washington categorically refutes the reports appearing in the Press to the effect that Musa Bey Alany, Palestine Delegate to the Arab League has expressed his consent to Jewish Immigration to Palestine under certain circumstances. The Arab Office takes this opportunity to reaffirm the adherence of the Arab's to their national pact which aims at the prohibition of Jewish Immigration. The prevention of land sales to Jews, and the establishment of a free and democratic arab state entitled to the membership of the Arab League. The Arab and Moslem World have fully supported the Palestine Arabs in their struggle to achieve their liberties. The Arabs are determined to attain their independence and to preserve their national existence by means at their disposal.

Ahmad Shukairy, Director of the Arab Office
Washington, D. C.
November 9, 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. Nahum Goldmann

November 11, 1945

Elisha Epstein

SUBJECT: Arab Activities in Latin America

Attached is a memorandum by Mr. J. Algazi on the subject of "Report on Arab Activities in Latin America."

During the International Christian Conference for Palestine held last week in Washington, I had the opportunity to speak with most of the delegates from Latin America and to inquire about the Arab activities in their countries. Practically all of them confirmed the fact that since the San Francisco Conference, there is a growing interest in Latin America in the Middle East and the Arab States. Arab propaganda in San Francisco had an obvious effect on the views of some of the statesmen from Latin America.

This fact, supported by the increase of Arab propaganda in some of the countries, especially in Chile and Mexico, may endanger the friendly attitude which Zionism gained for itself in that part of the world. The fact that Latin America occupies twenty-one seats in the United Nations Organization can be most dangerous to our cause if the votes from the Latin Americas are added to the Arab votes against the Zionist cause and a Jewish Palestine.

However, from my conversations with Senator Gabriel Gonzales Videla of Chile, Senor Antonio Castro Leal of Mexico and Senor Cesar Miro of Peru, the most prominent representatives to the Conference from Latin America, I was encouraged in the belief that systematic and properly organized action on our side can find a friendly response in influential circles in Latin American countries. They, and other delegates from Latin America, expressed their readiness and desire to assist us in any of our undertakings in this field.

I advise that as soon as our Latin American Department in Washington is fully organized, it should devote, in collaboration with me, the necessary attention and means for counteracting the Arab propaganda in Latin America by publishing, as suggested by Mr. Algazi, material in Spanish for distribution in Latin American countries. It is important to send a person with knowledge of Palestine and the Arab question and a command of Spanish on a lecture tour to at least some of the Latin American countries with Arab population. I advise that during your coming visit to Palestine, you make the necessary inquiries about the proper person to be invited for such a task.

Meanwhile, I shall use Mr. Algazi's cooperation for translating into Spanish some material on the Arabs and the Arab question for publication, through our friends, in the prominent papers in Latin America.

Mark Attachment - 1

CC: Dr. Wise; Dr. Aksin for Dr. Silver and Mr. Shapiro; Mr. Lipsky; Messrs. Lourie and Weisgal; Mr. Shertok.

E. Silver

No. 55

CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. Nahum Goldmann

November 12, 1945

Eliahu Epstein

SUBJECT: Conversation with Miss Pearl S. Buck

Sometime ago I asked for an interview with Miss Pearl S. Buck in order to gain a clearer conception of her personal attitude and the attitude of "The East and West Association," of which she is the President, towards Zionism and our work in Palestine.

The composition of this Association has never been encouraging from our point of view. The majority of the members are either retired missionaries with long residence in the East or assimilated Jews of the "intellectual" type with anti-Zionist viewpoints fortified by "humanitarian" reasons. The Treasurer of the Association, Mr. Charles S. Pharis, a Syrian Arab, is one of the influential members of the Board of Directors of the Association.

The policy of "Asia and the Americas," a monthly sponsored by the Association, is guided by Miss Elsie Weil, the managing editor. She is a Jewess of German origin and is an outspoken anti-Zionist. The main object of the Association and of "Asia and the Americas" is to promote friendly relations with the Far East. At the same time the Middle East has been assigned a prominent position in the discussions of the Association and in the pages of its monthly. In the past, one of the leading contributors to "Asia and the Americas" was the American Lebanese writer, Ameen Rihani, and recently Jamil el-Baroudy, also a Lebanese Christian, has served as the main interpreter of the Arab world to the readers of this monthly. Dr. Hans Kohn is prominently associated with the magazine.

In opening the conversation with Miss Buck, I expressed appreciation of the policy of "The East and West Association" and of the magazine in giving attention to social and economic aspects when dealing with the problems of the East. It was my experience that such an approach had been usually ignored in the past even by prominent authorities on the East whose main interest had been in studies in the history, geography and folklore of the Oriental peoples. A study of modern nationalism would be incomplete without a sociological exploration of such features in its origins and principles which are peculiar to each of the national movements under consideration. Assuming that this is the method applied by "The East and West Association" in treating of national movements in the Far, Middle and Near East alike, I expressed surprise at the failure to apply this approach when dealing with Zionism and our work in Palestine.

Miss Buck, who was listening intently to me, interrupted at this point by saying that neither she nor the Association is anti-Zionist and that the "Asia and the Americas" magazine is open to all shades of opinion, whether anti or pro-Zionist, if they are presented in the proper way. I expressed my appreciation of this

Dr. Nahum Goldmann

statement and told her that we would be very glad to have more opportunities of presenting our views, not only on Palestine, but on the East, especially the Middle East, because our movement and our work in Palestine is intended to be an integral part of a general, social, economic and political revival of the East.

Miss Buck went on to say that what bothered her regarding Zionism was the anti-democratic character of our present policies in Palestine. She referred to our opposition to the immediate establishment of a constitutional government in Palestine on the basis of proportional representation and also mentioned our opposition to Arab labor in Jewish-owned factories and farms. It was not difficult to see that all the possible arguments against us were known to her. I could not, however, detect whether these arguments were acquired by her since the establishment of the Arab Office, or whether she had been aware of them before that time.

She listened very carefully to my explanations and her questions indicated that some of our arguments were entirely new to her. She was especially interested in A. D. Gordon and the Hechalutz movement and also asked for details about the Jewish National Fund, its principles and policies.

She took occasion to express indignation at the fact that President Truman had asked the Arabs to share the responsibility for the destiny of 100,000 Jewish refugees by allowing them to go to Palestine without inviting at least a part of them to America. She considered President Truman's act an expression of national egoism and hypocrisy. I again took time to explain to her that these 100,000 Jews should go to Palestine "by right and not on sufferance." I also explained the legal foundations of the Jewish National Home in Palestine.

The conversation continued for more than an hour.

My main impression from this conversation was that Miss Buck represents more the Neo-imperialistic trends in American politics than a genuine desire for the social and economic reconstruction of the peoples and the countries of the East. The so-called humanitarian and sentimental approach to the "patriarchal" and "mysterious" East is very similar at present with the Americans to what it was with the British following Lawrence's adventures in Arabia after the last war. Although I believe that our chances of affecting the views and policies of "The East and West Association" are rather slight, it is, nonetheless, important to follow these activities carefully and to influence them whenever possible.

Miss Buck asked me to keep in contact with her and she invited me to the coming meeting of the Association.

EE:rk

CC: Dr. Wise
Dr. Aksin for Dr. Silver and Mr. Shapiro
Mr. Lipsky
Messrs. Lourie and Weisgal
Mr. Shertok

CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. Nahum Goldmann

November 12, 1945

Eliahu Epstein

SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. Salloum A. Mokarzel

While in New York on November 9, I had lunch with Mr. Salloum A. Mokarzel, the President of the Lebanese Association in the United States, and the Editor of "Al-Hoda," the largest Arab daily in this country. Since my arrival in the United States, I have become very friendly with Mr. Mokarzel.

He gave me a very gloomy description of the present state of affairs both in the Lebanon and among the Lebanese in America. To illustrate the situation in the Lebanon, he showed me a letter he had received from Beirut written by Pierre Jemayel, leader of a strong youth organization in the Lebanon ("Phalangists"), whose main purpose is to defend the Christian character of their country. This organization was always the most outspoken and the most militant in defending the Christian cause and the policies of the Maronite patriarch. In Mr. Jemayel's letter to Mr. Mokarzel, he indicated clearly that never was the situation of the Arab Christians as dangerous as it is now because of the growing Moslem aggression all over the Middle East. Although this danger is obvious, neither a single Christian leader nor a Christian organization will dare to come out openly in the Middle East with the same slogans and demands as they did only a year ago. Since the end of the war the situation has deteriorated all over the Arab world and has made the position of the minorities worse than ever before. Pierre Jemayel in congratulating Mr. Mokarzel for his devotion to the Christian cause in the Lebanon, emphasizes upon him the difficulties and the dangers which this cause is facing at the present moment.

When Mr. Mokarzel turned to the affairs within the Lebanese community in the United States, he was frank to consider his position as becoming weaker and weaker because of the growing pressure of the Arab Legations and the Arab Office on Arab public opinion in this country. With the exception of "Al-Hoda," all the papers are subsidized regularly by the Arab Legations and the Arab Office. Recently Dr. Charles Malik, the Lebanese Minister, was responsible for widening the existing divisions between the Maronites themselves in this country.

Mr. Mokarzel was explicit in making Monsignor Agel responsible to an extent for the existing situation. He considers Monsignor Agel's mission to be a failure. The Monsignor, instead of being persistent in his political action, spends most of his time in collecting money for the charitable institution in Beirut of which he is the director. In order to make the collections more voluminous, he compromised on many occasions with people whom he should have combatted if he adhered sincerely to the objects of his mission. The opposition of the Lebanese Government to this mission could make it the more popular if Monsignor Agel knew how to behave. It would then also serve the cause of the Patriarch.

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Dr. Nahum Goldmann

Mr. Mokarzel told me that he is determined to continue his struggle in all circumstances because he believes that a policy of moderation with the Moslems will only be considered as a sign of weakness and will encourage their aggressive tendencies toward the Christians and the Jews alike. The events in Egypt last week were the best evidence of what the Christians can expect after the Moslems are through with the Jews. When Emir Feisal of Saudi Arabia stated sometime ago that any Arab unity must be based on the Holy Koran, he only expressed what the other Moslem leaders are feeling without saying it openly for reasons of temporary strategy.

Mr. Mokarzel confirmed the news that the Arab Office in Washington is planning to expand its activities by opening offices in New York and also in San Francisco, especially if the latter becomes the seat of the United Nations Organization. When Azzam Bey, the Secretary-General of the Arab League, comes to this country, he will make the final arrangements in this matter.

Mr. Mokarzel told me confidentially that Professor Philip Hitti has practically retired from any political work on behalf of the Arabs in this country. His resignation was the result of his objection to the tendency of some of the Arab Christian politicians in this country to curtail the independent character of the Lebanon. Professor Hitti was, and remains, a keen supporter of Lebanese independence, and although an Arab nationalist, has always regarded Lebanese culture, because of its historical nature, as a social and political entity different from that of the other Arab countries. The new Director of the Institute of Arab-American Affairs, Inc., Dr. Khalil Totah, is an opportunist and will do whatever serves his own purposes and the purposes of the ruling clique in the Arab National movement.

Mr. Mokarzel expects Monsignor Agel to return to New York from his tour of the States sometime at the end of this month, and he will be very glad if we meet then for a discussion on current questions of mutual interest.

Mark

CC: Dr. Wise
Dr. Akzin for Dr. Silver and Mr. Shapiro
Mr. Lipeky
Messrs. Lourie and Weisgal
Mr. Shertok

Dr. Silver

No. 58

November 14, 1945

Dr. Nahum Goldmann

Eliahu Epstein

Attached is a copy of a telegram sent by Ahmad Shukairy, Director of the Arab Office in Washington to Mr. Attlee. The telegram has been released to the press for publication.



EE:rk

Attachment - 1

CC: Dr. Wise
Dr. Aksin for Dr. Silver and Mr. Shapiro
Mr. Lipsky
Messrs. Lourie and Weisgal
Mr. Shertok

for IMMEDIATE RELEASE
T E L E G R A M
November 12, 1945.

Mr. Clement R. Attlee,
His Majesty's Prime Minister,
British Embassy,
Washington, D. C.

The Arab Office welcomes this opportunity to greet you and extend to you the sincerest of best wishes for success in your mission to America, which is aimed at discovering ways and means for securing the establishment and maintenance of a just and durable peace.

The peoples of the Arab world are a part of that humanity which is groping in search of that path which leads to freedom, peace and security. The Arabs like other peoples love peace. But they love more that country of theirs which gave to the world the great Messenger of peace.

We need hardly remind His Majesty's Prime Minister of the serious threat to world peace fomented by Zionist pretensions and aggressions in Palestine. We request that any discussion aimed at the finding of a solution of the Palestine problem, must not be fatally saddled by considerations based upon the alleged needs of any of Europe's displaced Jews.

The problem of displaced European Jews is one which is distinct from the Palestine problem. The first is a humanitarian one, calling for a world solution. The second is a political one, calling for a local solution. Zionism must not be permitted to conceal itself in a Trojan horse of humanitarianism.

It is quite obvious, that in this modern atomic age, there can be no longer be any room for temporizing with partial solutions. Only clear-cut and final decisions will satisfy.

The Balfour Declaration was World War I's tragic legacy. It is high time that a halt be called to this unfortunate experiment, which far from providing an adequate solution to the so-called European "Jewish Problem," has on the contrary succeeded only in spreading it to an area which had never before known it.

The choice, if we believe in democracy, is a simple one to make. British policy can be either for or against the democratic right of an Arab majority to establish a democratic state in their own homeland. On that issue there can be no compromise; for Arab national existence is at stake.

Anglo-American insistence on the establishment in Central and Eastern Europe of Governments based upon the freely expressed wishes of the majority of their inhabitants, can have no genuine democratic meaning unless that same formula is likewise applied to Arab Palestine.

The Arab world is determined upon a speedy implementation of its conviction that the only possible solution for the Palestine problem is the immediate establishment of an Arab democratic state.

Ahmad Shukairy, Director,
Arab Office, Wardman Park,
Washington, D. C.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. Silver

No. 59

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. Nahum Goldmann

November 14, 1945

Elihu Epstein

Attached is a copy of a broadcast by the clandestine, "Voice of Israel" station somewhere in Palestine. These broadcasts are followed regularly by one of the government offices in Washington, D. C., are transcribed and distributed among the persons concerned.



Mark

Attachment - 1

CC: Dr. Wise
Dr. Aksin for Dr. Silver and Mr. Shapiro
Mr. Lipsky
Messrs. Lourie and Weisgal
Mr. Shertok

BRITISH GUILTY OF TRIPOLI DISORDERS

Glandestine, 'Voice of Israel' radio, in Hebrew to Palestine: "One week after the Egypt pogroms we learned about the Tripolitania pogroms. Approximately 100 Jews were killed. We demand that the British Commanding Officer in Tripoli, Brigadier Temple, answer for the blood of nearly 300 of our brethren, injured and killed. We charge him and his Deputy, Colonel Merter, with the responsibility for this bloodshed! The pogrom was prepared under the British occupation. It was from Egypt that the news spread -- the proclamation has removed all protection over Jewish property in Arab countries.

"Anyone may force Jewish houses in order to kill, violate, and loot. It was under British occupation that the Tripoli riffraff had learned that it is allowed to perpetrate pogroms and that the British would not interfere. It was under British occupation that the pogrom-makers organized and prepared the outrage; attacked the Jewish quarter on Sunday (apparently Nov. 4 -- Ed.) and murdered 40 Jews. The military authorities did not interfere!

"There was no curfew, no division was flown there. The pogrom-makers considered that as an encouragement. They continued the following day. Again breaking into the Jewish quarter, slaughtering dozens of Jews -- again the British authorities took no steps. Only on the third day... the pogrom-makers. ... pogroms occurred in the Provinces also.

Colonel Temple's Measures

"Jews were murdered in the villages. Looting extended throughout western Tripolitania. In villages without Jews the Arabs attacked Italians. Only then did Temple take measures, performing a highly courageous deed -- he gathered the Jewish community Rabbis, chiding them severely. He demanded that they -- the miserable victims -- repudiate these occurrences. The Commanding Officer has severely punished the Arab community heads by demanding that they express their regrets in writing. The commanding Officer a brilliant success -- he received the demanded piece of paper and the pogrom continued.

"Only on the third day had Temple gathered enough strength and curfewed the town -- but only in the center. He sent patrols to the Christian and European quarters, the Jewish quarter and boundaries were not curfewed, Jewish streets were not patrolled -- the slaughter, looting and the pogrom continued to rage.

"Hitherto the Tripoli Arabs did not dare to touch Jews. They are poorly versed in politics. However, they knew one thing -- in the past the Germans were there and slaughtered Jews. Then the British came and they are the Jews' Allies. They came together with Jewish soldiers, flying Jewish banners. They conquered Germany -- therefore the Jews must have an upper hand. Yet Temple enlightened the Tripoli Arabs by teaching them that the alliance with the Jews existed only until victory. After victory the Jews were no longer needed; after victory the alliance with the Jews ceased.

'Achievements' of Temple

"Brigadier Temple is under the command of the British military authorities in Egypt. Undoubtedly he will be decorated for his heroic stand before old women and children. He may now tell his Commander in Cairo: 'I succeeded in producing an upheaval in the Arab world. I succeeded in making true your prophecy about clashes throughout the Middle East. Here is the clash in my region. Lo and behold, 100 Jewish dead, more than those killed in Egypt, Syria, and even Palestine! It is I who deserves the prize!'

Necessity For Arms

"The pogroms in Tripolitania and Egypt brought fresh evidence as to what our fate will be if we remain a minority. They threw the light of pyres and blood on the value of protection, even if it is British. These outrages prove to everyone that the pogroms against defenseless Jews are the direct result of anti-Jewish hatred and lack of protection, the fruit of the efforts of those statesmen who try to strengthen the crumbling foundations of the White Paper.

"The pogroms again prove to us the necessity to be armed and to defend our weapons in order to have protection. (Editor's note: The broadcast continues by citing an unnamed London newspaper for the statement that 'the Arab countries also were prepared to participate in the solution of the Jewish question, provided the question remained a humanitarian, not a political one.') Then, (despite this), the threat of pogroms overhangs them daily -- pogroms whose bitterness they tasted only 4 years ago.

Nazi and Tsarist Methods

"Recently, in Syria, Jews were compelled to march in the front row of an anti-Zionist demonstration, just as the German Jews were forced by the Nazis to parade on the main streets with banners inscribed 'I am a filthy Jew'. Recently, in Egypt, the most enlightened of the Arab countries and leader of the Arab League, pogroms were executed according to the well-known pattern of Tsarist Russia and fascist Germany. Recently massacres were perpetrated in Tripolitania, which is under British military occupation.

Future Security

"Undoubtedly a brilliant future of security and freedom lies ahead of the Jewish communities whereon the Arab countries lavish so much clemency. No doubt complete security will be enjoyed by the Jewish minorities which will reckon solely on British protection. The problem of security and the future of the Jewish people has no separate humanitarian and political solution. The political solution is also a humanitarian one, and vice versa.

"We have learned a lesson in these days in Europe and the Arab countries about the curse of being a minority anywhere. Gathering to Palestine of the Jews of the Diaspora is the political and humanitarian solution, and there is none other. We will fight -- and fight like men whose only road to life is being obstructed.

Official Disregard

"We inform the public: Two British in civies visited Beit-Chalon village in the Gaza district and offered the Arabs British rifles at 5 pounds each. Soldiers of the Transjordan Frontier Force are smuggling weapons and ammunition to Arab villages. The authorities continue to disregard this.

"The British MIDEAST MAIL yesterday (Nov. 8) announced: 'The Governmental Information Office announced that a person illegally crossing the Syrian frontier with 400 (cartridges) had been arrested near Rosh Pina.' The announcement concealed the fact, published in every Hebrew newspaper, that the arrestee was a Syrian Arab." (Clandestine "Voice of Israel" Radio, in Hebrew to Palestine, Nov. 9, 1945, 7:00 a.m. EST)

ATTLEE MUST MARK TO U.S. ON PALESTINE

Clandestine "Voice of Israel" radio, in English to the Near East: "On the eve of vital decisions regarding the future of the Land of Israel Attlee has done two things: He reinforced the Army here, and has gone to Washington. This means that the British Government realizes that the White Paper policy has reached.... Events at the beginning of this month have shown that even an increase of the Armed Forces in Palestine does not guarantee peace in the face of... of the Jewish people. The problem is a political, and not military one.

Senator Wagner's Words

"If we want to hear from American.... listen to the voice of Senator Wagner. (Editor's note: Follows a quotation from Senator Wagner's declaration saying that the White Paper is the last remnant of Chamberlain's appeasement policy.) This is the voice of America -- a voice which Attlee will find difficult to disregard.

"The situation in Palestine is tense -- no one denies it. It is tense and will remain tense while the White Paper is the law of the land. One High Commissioner who realized fully the (impossibility) of governing the Holy Land on a basis of an unholy policy has resigned. The new High Commissioner is a soldier, a British soldier. He was doubtlessly told about the Jewish Resistance Movement.

Justification for Resistance

"Many British voices have attempted to form an opinion about us; we wish to add another voice, also British, also of a soldier, the voice of a man who fought for freedom all his life and who understood the nature of our struggle -- the voice of Josiah Wedgewood: 'Last year (1937) illegal Jewish immigrants were enchained and marched to.... I think that if you had gained freedom on that march, even by violence, public opinion would have supported you.... It belongs to the Palestine Jews to start (resistance).

"If I were a British official in Palestine, I would respect you much more if you could fight for your fellow countrymen. If you do not, you are not worthy of your country.... You reply: "Our hands are tied." I can imagine nothing like this. An Englishman's hands would not remain tied, ... I can only suggest: If anything unpleasant occurs, consider what action British colonists would take under similar circumstances...." (Clandestine "Voice of Israel" Radio, in English to the Near East, Nov. 11, 1945, 7:00 a.m. EST)



December 19, 1945

Mr. Eliahu Epstein
Jewish Agency for Palestine
1720 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Epstein:

I am very happy to be back home after a most interesting visit to Palestine. I hope that I will have an opportunity in the next few days of seeing you and of talking over matters of mutual interest.

At the moment I want to get some of the finances in connection with my trip straightened out. The enclosed ticket was purchased for me from Washington to Lydda, but was used only as far as Cairo. The American Air Transport Command does not go to Lydda. I had to purchase a ticket in Cairo on the Misr Line for Lydda. I would therefore suggest that you collect from the Air Transport Command the difference.

While in Palestine, I cashed a personal check for 100 lbs. thinking that I might want to purchase some things in Palestine. However, I left a few days ahead of time and did not get a chance to spend the money. Not being able to take the pounds out of the country, I gave them, that is L 70, to Mr. Eisenberg of the Jewish Agency to apply to my hotel expenses, etc. He will send me a receipt for that amount. When I receive it, I will forward it to you so that I may get the refund.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.

December 21, 1945

Mr. Eliahu Epstein
Jewish Agency for Palestine
1720 - Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Epstein:

To relieve pressure on The Temple telephones, Dr. Silver has had a private telephone installed under his name. This number will not be listed. In the future when you wish to call Dr. Silver at The Temple, will you kindly use this number -- RANDOLPH 0822.

With best wishes, I remain...

Very sincerely yours,

BJK

Secretary to Dr. Silver

(Issued by the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, Washington, D.C.
April 2, 1946)

WHEN GANGRENE SETS IN AMPUTATION IS THE ONLY CURE
(As-Sayeh) N.Y. Semi-Weekly) March 11, 1946

EDITORIAL

The post-war world is looking to the Security Council of the UNO to see if it can preserve peace, stop wars and unite the nations of the world in mutual cooperation in politics, economy and social welfare that the whole world be one and united to enjoy the Four Freedoms proclaimed by the Atlantic Charter.

All this is very beautiful. It gives the world hope never dreamed of before, for the world has never united to realize such security in the past. But fear of failure stares the world in the face because the UNO does not embrace every nation in its fold. Fifty democratic nations can do a lot, but it is to no avail if Fascism is not stamped out of the spirit of some men and nations.

How can Europe safely build the future peace when one of her member nations is under Fascist rule and governed by Fascist tendencies? How can Democracy in Europe be the ideal of governments while Spain still suffers under the tyrant Francisco Franco - the man who murdered his people and killed their freedom in order to sit dictating his criminal will to the miserable people of Spain. Hundreds of thousands have been his victims. Spain's prisons are full of innocents who number over thirty thousand.

When gangrene attacks any part of the human body, it exposes the whole body to death and deterioration. The only remedy for gangrene is amputation.

Democratic Europe cannot survive or establish peace with security unless the Tyrant Franco is ousted and condemned for his crimes. Fascism in Spain is a dangerous epidemic threatening Europe and the world and the sooner this danger is uprooted the better for Europe and the world. The Security Council of the UNO should look to this as its first step toward establishing peace; for Fascism must be uprooted once and for all.

WHAT'S BEHIND THE DELAYS

(As-Sameer) Brooklyn Daily March 13, 1946

EDITORIAL

In less than one year, the USA transported more than three million soldiers from the various battlefields of Europe and the Pacific to America. From New York to the nearest port in Europe is thousands of miles; from San Francisco to Japan more than ten thousand miles.

On this basis it would take but a few weeks to repatriate French troops in Syria. But the French, noted for their hot temper and reckless actions in many things - such as bombing peaceful cities like Damascus - when it comes to withdrawing from Lebanon - like to delay and take their time. They invent excuses and present arguments that would not convince even children.

One simple troopship is enough to transport all the French troops left in Lebanon. This is no exaggeration. The French themselves transported from France to Indo-China much larger numbers of troops nor did it take the French a year - not even part of a year - and the distance from Marseilles to Indo-China is much greater than Beirut to Marseilles. Therefore the arguments and

-2-

excuses of the French for staying another year in Lebanon indicate only one thing and that is their bad intentions and evil desire not to leave the country. In trying to reach a solution to this problem we advance the idea that the French think that at the end of a year Lebanon will continue to be quiet and they may stay indefinitely and play their colonial game as they did before. But this time they are wrong, because Lebanon knows how to be free. Lebanon has tested her freedom and enjoyed her independence and is not going to give in to the desires and ambitions of the French imperialists who have exploited the country so shamefully. The more the French persist in their old maneuvers and tactics, the more they bring on them the hatred of the Lebanese and the mistrust of the Powers who have already recognized Lebanon and Syria as free independent countries.

THE MARONITES AND THE ZIONISTS ARE THE TWO OBSTACLES TO THE GREATER SYRIA PROJECT

Al-Hoda(N.Y. Daily) March 13, 1946

The Turk Omar Riza Degral is a newspaperman who writes for Jamhuriat, The Turkish paper. Returning to Turkey from Egypt by way of Syria he had an interview with Abdul Rahman Kayali, deputy from Aleppo, after which he wrote to his paper that the project of Greater Syria hides behind it a Zionist expansion.

After this it seems his deductions and analyses led him to the conclusion that the Zionists and the Maronites are obstacles to the realization of the project of Greater Syria.

The editor of the Lebanese paper Al-Bairaq, in reply to this accusation, said the following:

It is crazy to unite the Zionists and the Maronites in the same camp. Zionism is a foreign movement, a recent one, and of an imperialist aggressive nature. The Maronites are to Lebanon, the heart of the country. They have been in Lebanon since the fourth century as Maronites and they and no others are the real Lebanese. The Maronites worked and are still working for the independence of Lebanon without interfering in the affairs of their neighbors. It is but right that the East should recognize the contributions of the Maronites to all the Arab States and to the Arabic language. Witness the resistance of the Maronites to the Teuranian Turkish Movement which wanted to abolish the Arabic language but didn't succeed because of this very resistance.

The stand of the Maronites is clear. They do not want to interfere in their neighbors' policies and at the same time they don't want their neighbors to interfere in Lebanon. Every project proposed by the Arab States will be encouraged by Lebanon provided it does not impede the freedom and the independence of Lebanon.

This is what the Maronites are and this is their stand in the past, the present and the future.

FOR AN EFFECTIVE BOYCOTT

Al-Bayan (Washington DC) March 16, 1946

EDITORIAL

In cooperation with the Arab States in the League, Lebanon has agreed to the boycott of Zionist goods and manufactures of all kinds. Still the boycott

was and is not as effective as it should be. First, there was time under the monthly permit for Lebanese merchants to lay in large stocks. Second, there was no inventory of Zionist merchandise in storehouses and the customs. Third, there should have been a tagging of all kinds of merchandise for the public to know which is which, for Zionist merchandise may not be marked as such and no one but the experts can identify it from other goods on the market.

From reports in the Lebanese press we surmise that the Lebanese Government did not take quick action or act with enough decision to stop the traffic in goods manufactured by Zionists in Palestine. Another step which occurred to us would be a listing of all merchandise which was imported to Lebanon in the year 1945. Guided by such a list the consumer would be able to determine whether goods were Zionist made or not.

We believe that if the boycott is effective, it will act to discourage the Jews from establishing big industries in Palestine and will be effective in dampening their hopes of success for the establishment of a Jewish National State. They also may leave the country because they will have nobody to deal with or sell their goods to.

Boycott is the best weapon for the Arabs to use. They will remove the danger of Zionism from the Arab land of Palestine.

So let us make the boycott effective.

DR HITTI, EMISSARY OF THE EMIGRANTS
Al-Hoda (N.Y. Daily) March 16, 1946

EDITORIAL

The Lebanese Government, through her Minister in Washington, sent an invitation to our compatriot Dr. Philip Hitti to visit Lebanon and give a few lectures on Lebanese emigrants in America. As soon as he can free himself for a while from duties in Princeton he will go to tell our countrymen in Lebanon what he knows about us here in America.

Who can speak better or more truly than our Dr. Hitti? He is our historian. He lives among us, knowing us all from one town to another doing his research in our small and large communities. He was among the first who helped the Arab Cause in America. He was the general adviser to the Arab delegates at the Conference of San Francisco and special adviser to the Iraqi Delegation. Furthermore he speaks out and is not afraid to tell the truth regardless of interests or friendships. We are sure that Dr. Hitti will give our brothers in Lebanon a true picture of all the details of our progress in public affairs and business and our contributions to this great country of our adoption. He will be as sincere with them as he was with their delegates to the various conferences here; as when he spoke to the delegates to the economic conference, the speech that made our Minister in London, Camil Shamsun, protest and say that we are not indebted at all to the West for anything.

We thank the Government of Lebanon for her invitation and we thank Dr. Hitti for he will be the first emissary of good will from this part of the world to our beloved old country.

NEWS FROM THE ARAB WORLD
Al-Islah (NY 3 times weekly) March 14, 1946

BY AIR

SYRIAN DEPUTIES CANNOT ENTER PARLIAMENT WITH GUNS

The President of the Syrian Parliament had decreed that no deputies can enter the House with arms. During the last session this law was put into effect. Deputies arriving armed were obliged to leave their weapons in the vestibule with the guards. The arms counted were twenty revolvers and ten daggers.



Epstein
THE NATION - April 6, 1946

In Defense of the Arabs

Dear Sirs:-

An article entitled Middle Eastern Munich, by Eliahu Epstein, appeared in your issue of March 9th. Mr. Epstein, as do other Zionists, indicts Haj Amin al Husseini, his cousin Jamal, Musa Alami, and other Arab leaders as "anti-British" and as "agents of Nazi aggression". Besides condemning these Arab leaders, Epstein casts reflections on the Arabs by stating that "slogans of Nazi philosophy made an infinitely stronger appeal to the Arab masses than the British policy of appeasement."

In fairness to Haj Amin, is it sufficient to make accusations against him without looking into the reasons which drove him into the arms of the Nazis? Haj Amin Husseini's conduct should be placed in the perspective of alliances in general. Haj Amin may be compared with the men of '76, who did not shrink from contracting a marriage de convenance with the enemies of their mother-country, the despotic race of the Bourbons. Jefferson and Franklin felt sure they were serving the genuine interests of liberty when they turned to the undemocratic French court for moral, financial, and military support against British tyranny. In making that strange alliance these American lovers of freedom were not subscribing to Bourbon despotism.

Was the alliance of the American colonies with France singular in history; all alliances are based on interest and expediency rather than principle. By way of illustration, may I just mention the Hitler-Stalin pact of 1939 and the British-Russian-American alliances? Needless to say, Britain and America did not embrace communism when they joined forces with Russia during the recent war.

If it can be said that some Arab leaders accepted German assistance in their mortal struggle with Zionism, it does not follow that they fell in love with fascist ideology. The Arabs on the contrary, are extremely democratic. Regimentation is foreign to their nature, and Nazi practices are abhorrent to their concepts of individual freedom.

We have the British and the Zionists to thank for Haj Amin's anti-British policy.

KHALIL TOTAN,

Executive Director, Institute of Arab
American Affairs

New York, March 13

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JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE
2210 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington 8, D.C.

April 9, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Silver:

Thank you for your letter of April 3rd. I have written meanwhile about the information I received from Mr. T. Arazi regarding the Mufti and M. Blum's reference to not knowing about the former's presence in France.

Following your suggestion, I am preparing a short report about the Mufti's present whereabouts, his freedom of movement, etc. in France, as well as the latest evidence which has been uncovered. This report will be transmitted to M. Blum stating that you have requested this office to make the latest data on the Mufti available to him. I will send you a copy of this report

With warmest greetings and kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

Eliahu Epstein (signed)

copied 4/11/46:MH

Dr. Silver

#49

April 9, 1946

Members of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine
Washington/London/Jerusalem
Eliahu Epstein

Attached are two reports by Mr. Moses A. Teff, Director of the
Latin American Department, dealing with Arab activities in
Argentina.

WRHS



EE/EC
cc: Dr. Stephen S. Wise
Dr. Benjamin Akzin for Dr. Silver and Messrs. Neumann and Shapiro
Mr. Lipsky
Mr. Lourie
Mr. Weisgal
Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in London
Palestine

To: Mr. Eliahu Epstein
From: Meisses A. Teff

April 8, 1946

Re: Statements made by Hilbrain Hallar, Secretary of the Permanent Committee of the first Pan Arab Congress in America.

In a private conversation with Mr. Hilbrain Hallar, Secretary of the Permanent Committee of the First Pan Arab Congress of America (Comite Permanente del Primer Congreso Panarabigo en America) Mr. Hallar stated to a person in whom we have utmost confidence, the following:

The Permanent Committee of the First Pan Arab Congress in America is completely identified with the Arab League and follows the same line. At the beginning, they distrusted the League because they thought that the League was a product of British imperialism. However, subsequent developments within the League showed them that, in spite there harboring many politicians, its members represent the Arab will and are they who are responsables for the unity attained in the Moslem world.

The First Pan Arab Congress in America understands that it must direct its policies toward Government circles. They understand that no people, even the most humanitarian, are too interested in the affairs of others; even though there should be a minority group that is concerned, still its influence never bears much weight in higher circles.

This is why the Permanent Committee never has tried, for instance, to win over the Argentinian people, but has taken, on the other hand, many steps to attract the sympathy of the Government. They consider it a great success that through the efforts of their chief - Senor Meisses J. Azise - the Argentine government has established diplomatic relations with almost all the countries that comprise the Arab League. "In this way without directly or even indirectly mentioning the Palestine question", said Mr. Hallar, "we can count on the support of the Argentine government for our demands at all International Conferences."

There are very few occasions, Mr. Hallar further stressed, when we have appealed to public opinion. The Permanent Committee did so in the year 1945; they considered that a year of intensive Zionist propaganda (enormous outlay of funds, Congress, special emissaries, public meetings for the Gentile world, etc.) Thus, in March 1945, simultaneous with the Zionist Congress being held in Montevideo, the first Pan Arab Congress sent a note to all Ministers of Foreign Affairs throughout the continent in which they restated their basic principles:

- 1- They have never acceded to the building of a Jewish National Home in Palestine.
- 2-Nor any other measure intended to work against the sovereignty of the Arabs established there.

The Permanent Committee requested the intervention of the Latin American governments on this question; according to them Palestine is an indivisible part of the Arab Homeland, and they consider non-existent the Zionist problem. Together with this note, they sent a copy of a pamphlet by Rafael LaHeud called "The Truth About the Palestine Question". They believe that the reason the pre-Zionist resolution of the Uruguayan delegate to the San Francisco Conference did not succeed was due in great part to this latter action. "The Republic of Uruguay sold out to Jewish

capital", Mr. Hallar said.

Later, in the month of July, 1945, the Committee issued a "Second Green Book on the Problems of Syria, Lebanon and Palestine" in which they included texts of various documents regarding this question as well as newspaper commentaries being collected with the same.

In discussing the persons who support the Arab movement in Argentina, Mr. Hallar named Mr. Santiago M. Peralta who is General Director of Immigration and from whom Mr. Hallar received the book "The Action of the Jewish People in Argentina". Mr. Hallar admitted that its contents must be treated discreetly due to the position that Peralta holds at this time. He also said that Peralta now has in process of publication a book on Arab immigration and a translation from the Keran.

M. Teff



March 28, 1946

To: Mr. Elishu Epstein
From: Moises A. Teff

By this Memorandum, please take note that my Memorandum dated the 23rd of February is void.

ARAB POPULATION IN ARGENTINA AND ITS ECONOMICAL STRUCTURE

The Arab community in Argentine amounts to 400,000 people with a capital of 4,000,000,000 Argentinian pesos, according to a statement by Doctor Nadim Maarri, published in the newspaper "La Naturra". But this figures includes also the Arab Jews, who account for more than half of the above mentioned amount, as well as form more than a half of the figure given for the Arab population. According with our information, the Moslems and Christian Arabs amount to about 150,000 men with a capital of 1,000,000,000 Argentinian pesos.

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS OF THE MAJORITY

The great majority are engaged in commerce, as illustration, there follows a quotation from a speech made by Senor Moises J. Azize during a celebration given by the "Institute Argentine De Cultura Integral" in honor of Syria and Lebanon: "He Arab brought large capitals into the country, he Arab set up enterprises or opened businesses upon arriving. These who came, were robust young farmers, gifted with hereditary commercial instinct who, after working very hard, traveling over the country, ended up by making themselves independent. The Arab of the second-hand shop is today, alone and by his own efforts, owner of stock-yards, landlord owner of great factories, and stores; he who works in and influences the Argentine export and import trade; he who has made himself a home, and whose children have gone to the universities; or left an imprint of a young race, powerful, generous and with Spanish and Arabic blood, in the literature, in the press and in the arts. Further, in many, many cases, it is he who wishes to make spontaneous expression of gratitude and requests the honor of becoming Argentinian citizen."

ORGANIZATION OF THE ARABS IN ARGENTINA

They are very divided. Moises J. Azize, who appears to be the most prominent man in this community, is not so in actuality. He has been for many years President of the Syrian-Lebanese "Club Honor Y Patria". We have undertaken an inquiry regarding this man in order to know his activities.

Some of the most important Arab organizations in Buenos Aires, are:

- Club Honor y Patria
- Asociacion Arabe Mahometana de Flores
- Asociacion de Beneficiencia Brusa
- Circulo Social y Cultural Arabe
- Club Juventud Arabe
- Sociedad Yabudense
- Sociedad Islamica
- Sociedad Alaita Islamica
- Sociedad Solidaridad Islamica
- Sociedad Alianza Arabe

Union Alaita de Beneficencia
Asociacion Pan-Islamica

We are taking care of obtaining information on each one of these organizations.

ARAB INFLUENCE IN ARGENTINIAN PUBLIC LIFE

There is no direct influence because most of the community is not interested in attaining it. But there is a small group, of which Azize is the head which tries by every means to attain it and who appears to be connected with official circles.

Thus, every national holiday is commemorated by the Club Homs Y Patria, and to these meetings are invited government officials. Also, the national press is the object of much attention and no year passes without demonstrations to "La Prensa" and "La Nacion".

Some time ago, Senor Moises J. Azize offered the comptroller of the National Council of Education a school building to be given annually by the Syrian-Lebanese community and to bear the name of an Argentinian patriot. But shortly thereafter, members of the Syrian-Lebanese community withdraw their authority from Senor Azize.

THE ARAB PRESS IN BUENOS AIRES

None of its publications has a circulation of more than 2,000.

ASSALAM, Editors Marie and Camile Schamun
La Liga, Editor, Julie Nader
La Union Libanese, Editor Rachid A. Busten
La Bandera Arabe, Editor Abdul Latif El Jechin
La Natura, Owner M.M. Ramadan
Al Istiklal, Editor Saleh G. Abesaleh

RELATIONSHIP OF THE ARABS WITH THE REACTIONARY ELEMENTS OF THE COUNTRY

The newspaper "La Calle", of "Peronista" tendency, published on two occasions articles by Mr. Rafael LaHoud, in which he stressed the adherence of the local Arab communities to Colonel Peron, because he considered that the political parties that formed the Union Democratica coalition, were sympathetic to the Zionist ideal. Rafael LaHoud is the author of a pamphlet called "Por que Se Lucha En Siria Y Libano" (Why The Fight in Syria and Lebanon) published by "La Natura" in August 1945, in which he carried a message to the people of France appealing to them to revolt against their rulers because of the wave of violence enacted against Syria and Lebanon.

Some time ago, the newspaper "La Calle" reappeared. It reports, in its number of February that senor Moises J. Azize called on Admiral Teissaire, the Laborite Party's candidate for Senator, and offered him the unconditional services of the Syrian-Lebanese community, including the Jews of this nationality.

On the occasion of the General Assembly of the United Nations in London, Dr. Lucio Merene Quintana, gave a luncheon for the representatives of the Arab League. Dr. Merene Quintana was the Chairman of the Argentinian Delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

POSITION OF THE ARGENTINIAN PRESS IN REGARD TO ZIONISM

The doctrinarian press of the country does not comment on the Palestinian situation, and restricts itself to publications in its columns of items distributed by various agencies, such as the United Press, Associated Press, Reuters and International News Service.

In the Capital, there are two newspapers published in English: "Buenos Aires Herald" and "The Standard", American and British, respectively; in general, they maintain sufficiently effective neutrality. "Buenos Aires Herald" is more given to the Zionist cause than "The Standard", whose position is this: the question of Palestine as such is not of interest to the British; The British interest touches on three points: the maintenance of peace in the territory under their Mandate; the conservation of petroleum plants and the maintenance of valuable airports. It is a long time since they have editorialized on news on this subject.

THE VISIT OF THE SYRIAN-LEBANESE EMISSARIES

Some time ago, there came to this country, Captain Mansour LaHeud, aide-de camp of the President of Lebanon, whose activities were limited to a regulation visit to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, reception in his honor by the Syrian-Lebanese community and the placing of a floral offering on the monument to San Martin.

MOSLEMS AND CHRISTIAN ARABS ENGAGED IN ANTI-SEMITIC ACTIVITIES

According with our information, the Arab propaganda, more anti-Semitic than directly anti-Zionist, was conducted before the end of the war by two Nazi agents: GERMAN BAUER for the Christians and GERMAN WOLFE for the Moslems, they were paid for by the BANCO GERMANICO and had many sub-agents under their direction. These agents were: Christians: Yamil Yabur, Ragheb Ketlun, Kairala Afida, Haled Helmi, Antonio Kaixuz Jr., the Nazralha brothers and the Chacra Brothers.

Moslems: Ali Usaire Miho, Casim Murad, Ganem Daud, Ahmed Hallar and Abdel Malek.

These details apply to the war period. Actually, the Germanico Bank has now been taken over by the Board of Vigilance and Final Disposition of Enemy Property.

ARAB MOVEMENT IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY

It can be stated, without thorough knowledge of the matter, that the activity carried out by the Arabs in the interior is meaningless, it being on a level of nationalistic feelings rather than political fervor.

After Buenos Aires, Rosario is the next most important center of the Arab community. At the time the war was being fought, the "Asociacion Juventud Sirio-Lebanesa de Rosario" played an important role. The leading persons in the Anti-Semitic movement were Hilmi Abdel Kader and Salim Casabelli, Moslem and Christian respectively.

Third in importance is the Arab community at Santiago del Estero, which locale was of certain official importance before the revolution of June 4. At Santiago del Estero at a recent political demonstration for Peron, the crowds started to riot attacking Jewish Shops and shouting "Down with the Jews and the Turks".

An Arab Doctor Elia s Llujdar became National Deputy, whose general point of view is democratic although we do not know his feelings toward the Zionist question.

ANTON SAADÉ - ARAB SPY

Anton Saade was deported from Syria because of subversive activities. He, subsequently, moved to Brazil, from where he was deported during the presidency of Vargas and in 1939 came to Argentina. Here, he was received as a leader and became the head of a group of 200 people who held their meetings in a hotel. There, attended one of these meetings as a guest, a Christian Arab of democratic conviction who was unaware of the nature of the group. The name of this man is Mr. Orfali. When the organizers of the meeting announced the coming of the "Leader", all the gathering arose and raised their arms in Nazi style, shouting "Heil Hitler". Mr. Orfali did not follow them and left the meetings.

We knew that after the GERMANICO BANK financed Saade's work. Due to his failure in Buenos Aires, he set himself up in Tucuman. There he set up a book and printing shop, in partnership with Sener Yubran Massuh. They published a newspaper called "Ijtisar". But Massuh deceived him, leaving Saade with the shop and in bankruptcy. Apparently he is at present engaged only in commerce.

RAFAEL LAHOUD- WRITER AND NEWSPAPERMAN

Is the author of the articles published in "La Galle". Is a member of a distinguished Syrian family and came to this country with some of his relatives. In spite of his social position, his sister, a capable young poetess, is actually working in a "night club."

Lahoud was the Argentinian representative of the magazine "Bibles" publication of scientific character. He himself is poet. He made various trips to the interior of Argentina and everywhere met with great success. His "playboy" character has led him to squander all the profits from his work. This gave him such a bad reputation in Buenos Aires that on one occasion he feigned committing suicide, to put an end to the gossip.

He was in close contact with Azize and also with the Banco Germanico. But his contradictory character drove him, later, to speak against Azize, with whom he had a quarrel, and to write against Germany. This, we believe, lost him the allowance that the Banco Germanico was supposed to give him. For the purpose of fighting Azize he founded a publication: "Al Diffaa" in which he showed himself sympathetic to the Jewish Cause.

He has an easy inventive, agreeable manner, is young and is addicted to the cause of the best payer. He could be brought without difficulty offering a price above his actual earnings of the moment. A friend of ours is in a position to reach him very easily.

ABDUL LATIF EL JACHIM

Is the editor of "La Bandera Arabe". He was the Argentinian representative of the magazine "Oriente". He is a man inoffensive in appearance but very dangerous.

He is very cultured and possesses a great influence in a very important Moslem sector, contemptible for its quality, but therein lies its danger. His activities in "La Bandera Arabe" does not bring him in much money, but for this reason many occasions arise when collections have to be made to fulfill the needs of the newspaper.

HOME CLUB

Was founded to oppose "Honor Y Patria", more exactly, Meises J. Azise. ~~His~~ Its president is Ragueb Ketlun, anti-Semite, who, as was stated above, received money from the Banco Germanico to pay various sub-agents who worked under his orders. Although the regulations of "Home Club" do not say it in so many words, no Jew is permitted membership. Ketlun is a completely uneducated person, very wealthy, being the owner of the wool for the manufacture of ribbons "La Menesa", of Valentin Alsina. The Club occupies a fine building.



Dr. Silver

#50

April 9, 1946

Members of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine
Washington/London/Jerusalem
Eliahu Epstein

Subject: Conversation with Mr. Arthur Upham Pope, Director of the Iranian
Institute and of the School for Asiatic Studies in New York.

Following Mr. Edward Carter's advice I called on Mr. Pope to discuss the question of the Middle Eastern Institute for Social and Economic Research with headquarters in Jerusalem.

Mr. Pope, who had been told about me by Mr. Carter, was familiar with the general scheme of my proposal. He expressed interest in the project for a permanent organization in the Middle East which should apply modern scientific methods to studying and interpreting to the general public everywhere progress and developments in that part of the world.

The American public has a special interest in the Middle East and Mr. Pope's object, in his own words, is to describe and to explain not only the aspects connected with oil and strategic bases in the Middle East, but also the life of the peoples who live there. He has been to Palestine several times and is familiar with the Jewish achievements in the Holy Land. He has read some of the scientific publications by our economists and sociologists and agreed with me that Jerusalem is the ideal place for such work, for there modern methods in sociological research can be applied in a way that no other country in the Middle East can attempt yet.

I explained to him that in suggesting the establishment of such an Institute, I do not propose any sectarian organization, but an independent, scientific body. As a Zionist, I believe such an Institute will also contribute to our Cause; because Jewish Palestine is at present the center of social progress in the Middle East, and it has always been our desire to contribute to similar development in the neighboring countries, for only in a progressive and developing environment will Jewish Palestine achieve real social and economic security.

Mr. Pope told me that although the Iranian Institute is at present an American institution, he has thought about the necessity for establishing associated institutes in the Middle East for the benefit of America and the Middle East alike. He has already succeeded in establishing a Group in India whose interest is similar to the one discussed by us. If we succeed in establishing an Institute of the kind I suggested in Palestine, he would be ready to advise the Board of Directors of his Institute to call a Conference to establish some kind of official connection between the three Institutes as a nucleus for a future larger organization which should include similar institutes in the Far, Middle and Near East.

He knows Mr. Carter's views; the latter would like to see all the institutes generally interested in the East brought together within the frame of one international organization. It is, therefore, important that I should continue to keep in as close contact as possible with Messrs. Carter and Holland, although at present they will probably not be able to do much officially for my plan.

Mr. Pope promised me to supply us with all the necessary data regarding the activities of the Iranian Institute and the School for Asiatic Studies and told me that he is now interested in finding a sponsor for establishing a chair on Palestineology and the Hebrew language in his School. He would appreciate whatever assistance the Hebrew University and other Jewish Institutions in Palestine can render to his Institute and School.



HE/RC

cc: Dr. Stephen S. Wise

Dr. B. Aksin for Dr. Silver and Messrs. Neumann and Shapiro

Mr. Lipsky

Mr. Lourie

Mr. Weisgal

Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in London
Palestine

April 11, 1946

Editor
The Nation
20 Vesey Street
New York, New York

Dear Sir:-

In answer to a letter published in the April 6th issue of The Nation by Khalil Totah, Executive Director of the Institute of Arab American Affairs, I should like to point out that Mr. Totah, inacknowledging that "some Arab leaders accepted German assistance in their mortal struggle with Zionism" adopt a new line. Until now Arab official sources, in spite of overwhelming and incontrovertible proof to the contrary, have been in the habit of denying the hard fact of Arab collaboration with the Axis.

In his effort to justify Arab collaboration with the Nazis Mr. Totah draws a comparison between the nefarious activities of the Mufti and his associates and the alignment of Jefferson and Franklin with the Bourbons. Mr. Totah, however, neglects one rather essential point in making the analogy: namely, that while Jefferson and Franklin were inspired by the highest humanitarian motivation in their struggle for liberty the Mufti, Jamal Husseini and the other Arab collaborators voluntarily identified themselves with the establishment of a regime of tyranny and slavery for mankind.

In trying to make his letter as persuasive as possible, Mr. Totah goes on further to challenge my reference to the Arab masses "to whom slogans of Nazi philosophy made an infinitely stronger appeal than the British policy of appeasement" by stating that "the Arabs on the contrary are extremely democratic". How extreme the democracy of the Arabs is may be inferred from a recent article printed in the most prominent and widest-circulated Arab newspaper published in Palestine. In describing the Nuremberg trials, the article states that: "Nazism is after all a principle of life, like Socialism and democracy. Trying their (the Nazi's) men is really a trial of the principles of free thinking. If we take the Laval and Petain trials as an example of legal justice we will find it is nothing but a screen for the spirit of vengeance and spite which the present political bodies in Europe harbour for the previous leaders of Europe. It looks as though the revengeful spirit which characterized the Petain and Laval trials is going to characterize the trials of Hess, Goering and the rest of the army generals who had to fulfil their military duty in the war as soldiers of defending their most sacred possession - their homeland." ("Falastin", Nov. 2, 1945)

While reading Mr. Totah's letter, one wonders not only at the astonishing arguments of the author but at the fact that the Mufti, Jamal el-Husseini and their colleagues are enjoying freedom and are steadily being restored in their former positions in Arab public life in Palestine and elsewhere. In Great Britain, France, Holland and Norway, short shrift has been made of those who, in whatever measure, gave help or comfort to the Nazis. It would not occur to any sane man in these countries to concede any vestige of political prestige to those who have been actively in league with the enemy. Yet not the slightest compunction was felt about receiving evidence before the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry from those who, for three long years let loose on Palestine murder upon murder, who, at the most critical stage of the war joined the enemies of the Allies in stirring up revolts and who, after the

failure of Rashid Ali's revolt in Iraq in 1941, had to be sent into exile before they proceeded directly to the enemies' capitals as the Mufti and other of their leaders, indeed, succeeded in doing.

Whether or not Mr. Totah has "to thank the British and the Zionists" for the Mufti's association with the Nazis is irrelevant. No allowances were made for motivations in the parallel causes of Quisling and Laval. One may therefore say that the courts have already given their answer to this last argument of Mr. Totah.

Very truly yours,

Eliahu Epstein
The Jewish Agency for Palestine
Washington Office

EE/RG



As I could not list our conclusions and feelings in the memorandum submitted to Mr. Leon Blum, I wrote him the following letter under separate cover:

"PERSONAL

April 12, 1946

Dear Sir:

I cannot withhold from you the feelings^e of a Palestinian Jew about the Mufti intrigue:

France, who knew so well to punish those who harmed her during this war, is not only indifferent but also helps to cover the blood of millions of Jews.

France, who had the help and sympathy of the Jewish people in her darkest hours, whose only friends in the Middle-East are the Jews of Palestine (who valiantly fought together with the free French in the Syrian campaign) betrays not only them but also those throughout the world, who believe in her glorious past and her future.

(The writer of this memorandum had the honor to participate actively in the liberation of Syria as Liaison Officer with the free French of the Jewish Agency, was wounded, crippled for life and condemned to fifteen years of hard labor by the Vichy Military Court of Beirut.)

sgnd. T. Arazi

Enclosed: A photostatic copy of a letter from "Le General Commandant les Forced Francais Libres au Levant" to T. Arazi thanking him for his services, etc.

The Jewish Agency for Palestine

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. E. Epstein

April 12, 1946

FROM: Tuvia Arazi

I read a copy of your letter of April 4th to Dr. Silver regarding Mr. Awad. I found some details not clearly explained. They are as follows:

Mr. Awad, when still in the Lebanon, was instructed by the former President of the Lebanon, M. Naccache, to cooperate with us. On his arrival in New York, he spoke to me on the telephone; I was preoccupied with the Mufti case at the time so I made an appointment with him for two days later. In the meantime someone took Mr. Awad to Mr. Ben-Horin

sgd. T. Arazi



CABLE ADDRESS
JEWAGENCY

הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

The Jewish Agency for Palestine

2210 Massachusetts Ave., N. W.
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.
ADAMS 5411

April 15, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Ave.
New York, New York

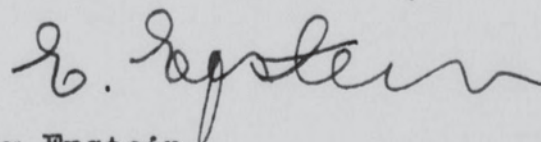
Dear Dr. Silver:

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Leon Blum with two notes on the Mufti. In my absence from Washington, the letter was signed by Mr. Arazi.

I am also enclosing a copy of a memorandum sent to me by Mr. Arazi regarding Mr. Awad. You may be interested in reading it.

With kind personal regards,

Very cordially yours,



Eliahu Epstein

EE:rk
Encs.

April 12, 1946

Mr. Leon Blum
c/o French Embassy
2129 Wyoming Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Blum:

On the request of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, the Office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine has the honor to submit to you the attached notes on Haj Amin al Husseini, the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem now in France.

Respectfully yours,

Tuvia Arazi

NOTE ON HAJ AMIN EL HUSSEINI

Pre War

Haj Amin el Hussein is directly responsible for the murder of Jews, Arabs and British in Palestine riots during the years 1920-1939.

For his instigation of the 1920 pogrom in Jerusalem he was sentenced to ten years of prison by the British Military Court.

The various British Inquiry Committees after the riots in Palestine found him responsible in great part for the murders committed against Jews, Arabs and British alike. (Note: Hundreds of Arab opponents of the Mufti were killed during the 1936-1939 riots - statements by Arabs to this effect were published in the press and pamphlets. Some of those who made the statements were also later killed.

In the House of Commons and the House of Lords the Mufti was accused as responsible for these crimes not only by Members of Parliament and Lords but also by the Secretary of State and other spokesmen for the Government.

In 1937 the Mufti escaped to French Mandated territory (Lebanon) where he found haven and from where he continued his criminal activities. Both Houses (Commons and Lords) as well as the British Press (The London Times) were outraged at the time by this harbouring of the Mufti by the French, the cause of which was attributed to the Franco-British rivalry in the Middle East.

During the War

Iraq: The first accomplishment of the Mufti during the War was the Iraqi revolt of April-May 1941. This stabbing in the back occurred at a most critical period of the war, when the British stood alone against the Germans. Many strategists assert that had the Mufti succeeded to secure bases for the Germans in Iraq, the heart of the Middle East, Germany would have had all the chances to win the war - there would not have been either Alamein or Stalingrad. It is by sheer miracle, bad timing by the Mufti, and the Greek long resistance (to quote General Smuts) that the revolt failed.

Iran: From Iraq Haj Amin passed to Teheran where he tried, together with Nazi-Japanese agents to foil another revolt, i.e. to secure petrol and bases for the Germans. This failed mainly due to the entry of Russia into the war.

Italy: From Iran the Mufti escaped to Italy, where he dealt with Mussolini and made a call to the Moslem World to fight the Allies.

Germany: In Germany (since Dec. 1942) the Mufti dealt with Hitler, Ribbentrop and the German Oriental Service. He first established Arab espionage, sabotage and propaganda services. Many spy rings and Arab parachutists were caught during the war in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Palestine and Egypt. A center for instructing Arabs in sabotage was established in Athens.

The Mufti broadcast on six Nazi stations calling the Arabs, the Indians, the Moslems of the Far East, the Moslems of Europe and others to fight against the Allies. Haj Amin organized Arab and Moslem Axis Legions from the Arabs and Moslems residing in occupied Europe (including France) the Balkans, Asiatic Russia and from the "refugees" who escaped with him to Germany. With the other Oriental Quislings he played a leading part in Nazi Oriental policy during the War.

He was also in close contact with the Japanese and with the Oriental Quislings like Subhasbose (the Indian) etc.

The Mufti played a large part in the extermination of the Jews. Evidence to this effect was published in the press by Jewish leaders who negotiated with the Germans during the war regarding the possibility of saving refugees. One of the Nazi chiefs of the German Extermination Office, Wicliceny, now arrested in Nuremberg, testified that the Mufti "always a bitter arch enemy of the Jews has always been a protagonist of the idea of the annihilation of the Jews. This idea the Mufti had always advanced in the conversations with Eichmann (Eichmann was Chief of the Jewish Extermination Office). The Mufti was also one of the initiators of the systematic extermination of European Jewry by the Germans, was a prominent collaborator of Eichmann, and collaborated with Himmler in the execution of this plan."

We have many other documents and testimoneis also from the Mufti's broadcasts regarding this phase of his activities.



THE MUFTI IN FRANCE

On May 7, 1945, the Swiss authorities aware of the Allied directive that no harboring of war criminals will be tolerated arrested the Mufti on his arrival to Bern, and deported him back to the German frontier (UP, Bern, May 7). Therefore, once again (as in 1937) the Mufti turned to France for help.

On his arrival Radio Paris announced (May 21) that the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, who collaborated with Hitler and Mussolini, was arrested in France and "will be handed over to the British".

His choice of France as residence was not without reason; Haj Amin turned to the French in mid May 1945, during the most critical period of the Franco-British squabble over the Levant (culminating on the 1st of June, 1935 with the bombing of Damascus and the open and bitter accusations between General De Gaulle and Mr. Churchill). As in 1937, the French Oriental Administration grasped at once the possibilities of exploiting the Mufti for their own advantages: they figured that he would not only help them in the Levant situation, but that his presence would bring them additional prestige among the Moslems of North Africa. On May 30th the official French News Agency and later, the French Legation in Cairo announced that "the Mufti of Jerusalem who was under house arrest in a villa in a Paris suburb was being treated with every consideration due to his exalted rank". (The exact wording as used by the Wilhelmstrasse spokesman on the Mufti's arrival to Berlin--London Times, Nov. 8, 1941.)

But once installed comfortably in his villa near Paris, the Mufti balked at committing himself to the French. For although Britain was his traditional enemy, Haj Amin was shrewd enough to understand that in the international scene, Britain was far away stronger than France, and the disadvantages of identifying himself with the losing side were too apparent.

Britain, on the other hand, was not over anxious to have Haj Amin on her hands, since this would force her to bring charges against the Mufti for his war crimes. Thus the British were satisfied for the time being with the Mufti being domiciled in France, as this threw the whole responsibility for not bringing him to trial on the French government. Time and again, when questioned in Parliament as to whether His Majesty's Government planned to prosecute this "henchman of Hitler and enemy of the British Empire" Colonial Secretary Hall replied with the conveniently non-committal "He is in the hands of our allies the French".

Since this pointing of the finger of guilt at the French eventually aroused indignation throughout the world press (including the French papers), the French were obliged to retaliate to the effect that the British authorities had not asked them to extradite the Mufti.

It was about this point that a possible solution appeared: The Yugoslav Government indicted the Mufti as war criminal. But owing to pressure by the Arab League and other behind-the-scenes factors, the Yugoslavs agreed not to press the extradition of the Mufti, although indicting him as a war criminal.

Meanwhile, Rashid Ali Keilani, managed to reach safe haven in Saudi Arabia. The British press and Parliament accused the French of being accomplices to Rashid Ali's escape (he had been condemned to death by the Iraqi Military Court). To these accusations Mr. Noel Baker replied in Parliament on November 13th, 1945, that he would see to it that precautions were taken to prevent the escape of Haj Amin el Husseini from France.

In November after a French-British parley held in London where the Levant question was second on the agenda (first was the question of the Ruhr) it was announced that an agreement had been reached on all outstanding questions between the French and the British in the Middle East. (Texte Officiel 13 December 1945, No.2). There is no doubt whatsoever, that the problem of the Mufti was discussed and settled at these parleys which were attended by a French Oriental adviser under whose jurisdiction the Mufti falls. From this point on a new policy was devised, and the French and British engaged in the game known as "passing the buck".

Indignation grew throughout the world. Moreover, in January 1946 the affidavit of Dr. Kastner exposing the Mufti's leading role in the extermination of European Jewry was made public. It was reprinted in the MONDE of 6/2/46 with the addition of the following:

It is known that the Grand Mufti, after instigating the massacres in Palestine found refuge in Syria which he left in 1939 for Iraq. In Baghdad he was the instigator of the Rashid Ali revolt and after this was put down he went to Germany where he became the chief of the "Arab Army of Liberation". He was arrested in Germany by the French police and is now under "residence forces" in the suburbs of Paris where he is under surveillance. He is considered a war criminal by British and Allied circles for his pro-Axis activities during the war". Thus the French semi-official paper bluntly asserted that it is Britain, and not France, who is qualified to bring charges against the Mufti.

In Parliament on February 26 "Mr. Hoy asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been drawn to the material recently produced at the trials of war criminals in Nuerberg about the role played by Haj Amin el Hussein former Mufti of Jerusalem in instigating and encouraging the Nazi plan of exterminating European Jewry; and what steps he has taken, or proposes to take, to have him tried as a war criminal.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. McNeill): A special inquiry is being made to obtain accurate records of any relevant evidence that may have been given to the International Military Tribunal. This matter will be considered together with any other relevant matters. *as regards*

The situation changed abruptly with the declaration of Mr. Bevin in Parliament on April 3rd, 1946 "The French Government so far has failed to comply with the long standing British request for extradition of Haj Amin el Hussein, former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, but the British Government is pressing the matter and constantly has the request before the French Government. Foreign Minister Bevin stated in Commons yesterday, in reply to Barbara Ayerton Gould, Labor MP. The Mufti, under indictment by the Yugoslav Government as an Axis war criminal, has been living in France under technical arrest, since shortly after the collapse of Germany. When asked by Mrs. Gould what reasons the French have given for not agreeing to surrender the Mufti, Mr. Bevin replied that they presented no official answer but, it is understood, there are certain difficulties involved." (Palcor April 4) .

At the beginning, the French shirked from confronting directly the truth (see attached telegram from Paris dated April 5th). But three days later they bluntly changed the line (see attached telegram 8 of April, Reuters, Paris.).

It appears clearly from the above that France now changed her policy and agreed to take the blame on herself in helping the Mufti to escape from justice. The reasons for this, to quote the American Radio commentator Johannes Steel: "The Mufti is used as a bargaining point for deals in the Levant and a pending deal over the future of the Ruhr". (April 9th)

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE

AUX ETATS-UNIS

Washington, le 25 Avril 1946

Cher Monsieur,

Je vous remercie beaucoup de m'avoir envoye le memorandum du Dr. Silver. L'Ambassade de France aux Etats-Unis est, comme vous le savez sans doute, intervenue a plusieurs reprises dans cette affaire et, je l'espere, avec success. Moi aussi, j'ai fait de mon mieux.

Bien sincerement a vous.

Leon Blum

Mr. Tuvia Arazi
The Jewish Agency for Palestine
2210 Massachusetts Ave.N.W.
Washington 8, D.C.

CABLE ADDRESS
JEWAGENCY

הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

The Jewish Agency for Palestine

2210 Massachusetts Ave., N. W.
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.
ADAMS 5411

April 30, 1946

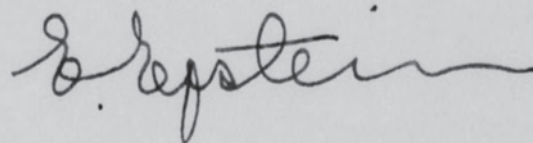
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Silver:-

I enclose herewith for your information copy
of a personal letter written by Mr. T. Arazi to Mr. Leon
Blum and Mr. Blum's reply.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,



Eliahu Epstein

EE/RC

encl.2

Dr. Eisen

COPY

JERUSALEM MAY 5 1946

PRESS

ZIONPAL
NEWYORK

PALESTINE COMMITTEE BRIT ACCEPTED TERMS UNION WITH
GENERAL ZIONISTS ALEPH AND PER HABOKER LATTERS PALESTINE COMMITTEE
AGREED ALSO STOP AGREEMENT TO BE SUBMITTED THIS WEEK COUNCILS EACH
PARTY FOR RATIFICATION PROSPECTS FAVORABLE



ELIAS EPSTEIN



C
O
P
Y

Jewish Agency for Palestine
2210 Massachusetts Av., N.W.
Washington 8, D.C.

May 17, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Silver:

Your letter of May 5th regarding Mr. Awad arrived when I was in New York. While I was in New York I discussed the matter with Mr. Ben-Horin and explained to him the plan of action I prepared for Mr. Awad. It includes some publicity work after he concludes certain activities among his own people. Premature publicity could harm his present endeavors.

I asked Mr. Ben-Horin to convey to you the content of our conversations which I am sure he will do on his first occasion. I appreciate your interest in the matter.

With best wishes and kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

ELIAHU EPSTEIN (signed)

copied 5/20/46:MH

C O P Y

C O P Y

CABLEGRAM RECEIVED MAY 22, 1946

PM 6 05

W1081 GBW1259 JERUSALEM 110 20 0900

NLT EPSTEIN JEWAGENCY WASHINGTON

YOURS 1136 BORN GAZA 1905 STUDIED CAMBRIDGE MARRIED FRENCHWOMAN
HIS FATHER WAS MEMBER SUPREMEMOSLEM COUNCIL HIS BROTHER TILL NOW
MAYOR GAZA STOP WAS DISTRICT OFFICER JENIN TILL 1936 THEN ADVISER
QAUQJIS STAFF AND CLOSE TO MUFTI CONTRARY TO HIS FAMILY INCLINA-
TIONS. FLED PALESTINE END 1937 TO SYRIA WHERE MEMBER PALESTINE ARAB
REBELLION COMMAND STOP DURING WAR ACTED LIAISON GERMANS PARTICIPATED
RASHIDALI REVOLT 1941 THEN WENT HEDJAZ APPOINTED BY IBNSAUD MINISTER
AGRICULTURE AND MINES STOP 1944 SAUDIAN DELEGATE AGRICULTURAL CON-
FERENCE CAIRO STOP TODAY CAIRO AFTER MEETING SYRIAN PRESIDENT AND
EXILED PALESTINIAN REBELS DAMASCUS STOP APPARENTLY INTENDS PROCEED
FRANCE TO MEET MUFTI THENCE STATES STOP ACKNOWLEDGE

JOSEPH

copied -jm

5/27/46

C O P Y

C O P Y

THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

2210 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.

Washington 8, D.C.

May 24, 1946

Mr. Harry Steinberg

American Zionist Emergency Council

342 Madison Avenue

New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Steinberg:

Please find enclosed a copy of a cablegram received from our office in Jerusalem in reply to our investigation about Izzeddin Shawa.

Please let me know what use you are making of this material in order to avoid duplication and over-lapping.

Cordially yours,

(signed)

EE:irke

Eliahu Epstein

Enc. - 1

copy
5/27/46, jm

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION (15).

1201

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

A. N. WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

JOSEPH L. EGAN, PRESIDENT

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.WM31

1946 JUN 26 AM 11 15

N. CT27 6=CT WASHINGTON DC 26 1109A

DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

THE TEMPLE CLEVE=

DUPLICATE OF TELEPHONED TELEGRAM



YASHER KOAH YOUR ADMIRABLE MESSAGE HAGANAH=
ELIAHU EPSTEIN.