



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series II: Harold P. Manson File (Zionism Files), 1940-1949, undated.

Sub-series A: Main Manson File, 1940-1949.

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British policy, 1946.

REPORT OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN C.A.F. DUNDAS, 1st Sec. OF
BRITISH LEGATION, DAMASCUS, AND A. DENNET ATTACHE OF THE U.S. LEGATION
IN BEIRUT , DECEMBER 6, 1946.

Dundas stated that the reason that the Druze are not opposed to the Greater Syria is because Abdullah permits them to smuggle Hashish through Transjordan. Current crop of Hashish estimated at £5,000,000. Dennet said that when he was last in Aman he was told that British told Abdalla that he had a free hand in the GS plan. Dundas said that this was right. HMG has issued instruction that if changes in frontiers were affected by the Arabs and if these were legal, HMG would grant recognition to what has been done, if these changes commanded popular support. Otherwise recognition would be withheld. He said that before Shone left he circulated a dispatch on the subject, asking for a clear policy statement on subjects such as the GS plan, and other allignments in the Near East. Bevin's reply was an instruction to continue present neutrality and non-committal attitude. He said that HMG sooner or later would come out with a policy on Palestine which might not prove wholly acceptable to the Arabs. In this event GS could form a convenient threat for any recalcitrant Syrians and Lebanese. Either they accept HMG settlement of the Palestine problem or GS will be used as a club to produce acceptance of the solution for Palestine.

