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GENERAL

1. UK-Transjordan concern over activities of Mufti--The Liaison Officer in Amman for the US member of the UN Truce Commission has been informed by King Abdullah that the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem is now organizing an irregular "Palestine Army" with active financial and material support from the Arab League. The King stated that because such an army would "seriously hamper" the regular Arab armies in Palestine as well as the administration of the Arab areas, the Transjordan Government has called on the League in strong terms to cease its support of the Mufti.

US Embassy London reports that the UK Foreign Office is seeking the views of all British diplomatic missions in the Middle East on "what might be done about the Mufti who appears likely to be a major obstacle to settling the problem of the Arab part of Palestine." The Foreign Office is considering the advisability of pointing out to the rulers of the Arab states the dangers which would arise from breaches of the truce by the Mufti irregulars and from the existence of a Mufti-controlled administration.

EUROPE

2. UNITED KINGDOM: Demobilization suspended for three months-- The US Military Attache in London reports that the Cabinet has now decided to stop all releases from the armed forces for a three-month period, starting probably on 14 September. During this period, further study of the National Service Act (conscription), which becomes effective 1 January, will be made with a view to changing its provisions.

(CIA Comment: The National Service Act, which was passed by Parliament in 1947, presently specifies one year's service. The Government will probably ask Parliament this fall to extend the term of draft service by six months.)

DIA & DOS review(s) completed.

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