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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Egypt

DATE: 25X1X6

INFO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Ahmad Husayn's Mission to America

DIST. 25 February 1947

PAGES 4

SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN
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1. Before taking off for America on 13 January 1947, Ahmad Husayn declared to the members of the Administrative Board of his Society (Misr al-Fatah) that the officials of the American Embassy in Cairo had been most helpful and had rendered all possible assistance in arranging the details of his departure.

2. By travelling to America, Husayn is believed to have a dual purpose, under the pretense of patriotic motives:

(a) To gain prestige in the eyes of his compatriots and the Americans, by impressing the American authorities in Washington of his importance. In this field he is expected to defend the cause of Egypt on the basis of his social principles, including the establishment of an Arab Union stronger than the Arab League and the union of the Nile Valley. He will contact Arab delegations and will approach members of the Security Council.

(b) To exploit the prestige he has gained in this manner, for establishing commercial contacts and possibly for obtaining funds from American capitalists by interesting them in lucrative transactions, as soon as "the expected return of Mustafa al-Nahhas to power materializes."

3. In the name of the Society he was able to collect but L.E. 700 of an estimated expenditure of L.E. 1,000 for his travel to America. In a declaration addressed to the Egyptian people just before his departure Husayn said:

"My Countrymen:

"It is now clear to everyone that Great Britain will never accept the fundamental claim of Egypt with regard to unity of the Nile Valley. Quite the contrary, the British are striving to separate definitively the Sudan from Egypt, to convert it into one of their colonies.

Document No. 003
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Class. CHA TO: TS S C
DDA Form, 4 Apr 77
Auth: DDA Form 77/1763
Date: 24 March 1978 By: 027

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"The National Party, at first, and Misr al-Fatah, later on, proclaimed that there could be no negotiations and no treaty could be signed before the complete evacuation of Egyptian soil.

"Now the time has arrived when every Egyptian is repeating the same cry. Every one is convinced that we must carry on a persistent struggle against the British people. It is true that we have no fleet, no guns, no atomic bomb, but we have a weapon which is stronger than all these; it is the weapon of "right" and our indomitable will to live in liberty. The British people, more than any other people, know the effect of this moral arm.

"In view of the above, the Society has decided to delegate me and a few of my colleagues to visit America, to defend the cause of Egypt and to oppose British policy. We have advised the other parties and organizations to send their own delegates to join us and I hope that my departure will encourage them to follow this advice.

"I am now leaving for America to defend our just cause, including the evacuation and the unconditional union of the whole Nile Valley. For this journey I have neither money nor authority; I am travelling as an ordinary Egyptian, who is going to the land of wealth and industry, to raise the voice of my country in that part of the world. Although I am undertaking a most difficult task, yet my faith in justice and my convictions with regard to the cause of my country, make me confident that my mission will be successful. All that I ask from you, my countrymen, is that you support me and pray to God for me.

"We will force the British people out of our country and will achieve the unity of the Nile Valley. This is our will which can never be overcome. I take this opportunity to renew my pledge that I will remain faithful to our aim; that I will fight with all my energy for the realization of our objectives.

God is great, and glory to Egypt."

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4. Earlier, the General Committee of Misr al-Fatah had assembled and, having listened to a report of its President, approved the following resolutions:

- (a) That the country will not retract and insists upon the realization of its vital demand for the union of the Sudan with Egypt. Any negligence will be regarded as high treason against the people of the Nile Valley.
- (b) The General Committee has decided that it will never agree to the dismemberment of the Sudan, nor to any of the various schemes advanced by the British.
- (c) Egypt cannot accept a conditional evacuation and tolerate any restriction or alliance. The evacuation must be speedy and complete in both Egypt and the Sudan.
- (d) The Committee agrees to send a delegation to America to propagandize in favor of the Egyptian cause, preparatory to submitting the question to the League and to the Security Council. It will invite the other groups and parties to support this undertaking.

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Comment:

Ahmad Husayn's political career in recent years has been characterized by pronounced opportunist tendencies. Although he holds the distinction of having been subjected to disciplinary action and imprisonment more often than any other Egyptian political personality, his outward patriotic stand is motivated by personal greed and monetary benefit. His participation in recent terrorist acts must be viewed in this light and it is therefore for this reason that he has finally espoused the Wafdist cause, after falling in turn under the influence of opposing factions. He failed to form a lasting alliance with the Communists because his price was not commensurate to the services he rendered. Although at one time he had delegated a labor leader attached to his Society to conduct propaganda along Communist lines, he was discouraged from permanent affiliation with the Communists. During the war he was generally considered to have acquired a Fascist, pro-Nazi outlook. The following events are in addition to the outstanding phases of his political career:

- (a) Before and during the war, Husayn conducted an active campaign against the Wafd.

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- (b) When Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din finally obtained his adherence to the Wafd, Husayn attacked the cabinets of both Mahmud Nuqrashi and Sidqi.
 - (c) In 1944 the Fafd bought Husayn with 60 feddens of government land, which Siraj-al-Din, then Minister of the Interior, donated to him.
 - (d) Wishing to make a further contribution to him and in order to annoy the British, who had restrained the pro-Nazi inclinations of Ahmad Husayn, the Fafd allowed Husayn to circulate freely. When his movements finally were restricted, Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din removed the Mir-al-Fatah leader from a detention house in Zaytun to comfortable quarters in a government agency in Heliopolis, in spite of British protests.

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[REDACTED] Comment: See [REDACTED] distributed on 17 December 1946, which is concerned with Ahmad Husayn's renewed activities.

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