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COUNTRY

SUBJECT

Activities in Lebanon

5 November 1947

PAGES

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According to statements made by Mustafa al-Aris, prominent Beirut Communist and Chairman of the Lebanese Federation of Labor Unions, the best protection for Trans-Arabian Pipelina Company laborers would be the formation of an organization of their own. Such an organization, for which government recognition would have to be secured, would protect the laborers and ensure their continued employment. Aris already has some of his best men preaching among TAPCO workers the necessity for such an organization and has instructed his key men in various labor organizations to advocate the same measure.

- 2. During the week of 18-25 September Mustafa al-Aris called the heads of some of the unions (carpenters, masons, painters and mechanics) to a meeting in his office for a discussion of the TAPCO labor situation. The names of unemployed workers in these various unions were read and it was decided to note the names of the most capable workers and to submit these to Aris. The latter promised to secure the necessary recommendations for employment with (presumably from individuals in the government) for as many as TAPO possible of the candidates.
- The Communists are also trying in quite a different way to $cr\epsilon$ to disturbances for TAPCO. In Moslem circles they charge the Company with deliberate Cappritism for Christians and in Southern Labamon soread the rumor that the Company is hiring too many men from Beirut and surrounding districts; in Damascus the Communists '...m that the Lebanese will have the "lion's share."
- k_{\odot} It is also reported that many of the drivers who formerly worked for the French political officers are already in the service of TAPCO. Some of these men were information agents as well as drivers.

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