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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Spain/Middle East

DATE DISTR. 3 September 1948

SUBJECT Franco's Negotiations for  
Delivering Arms to Arab States  
25X1A

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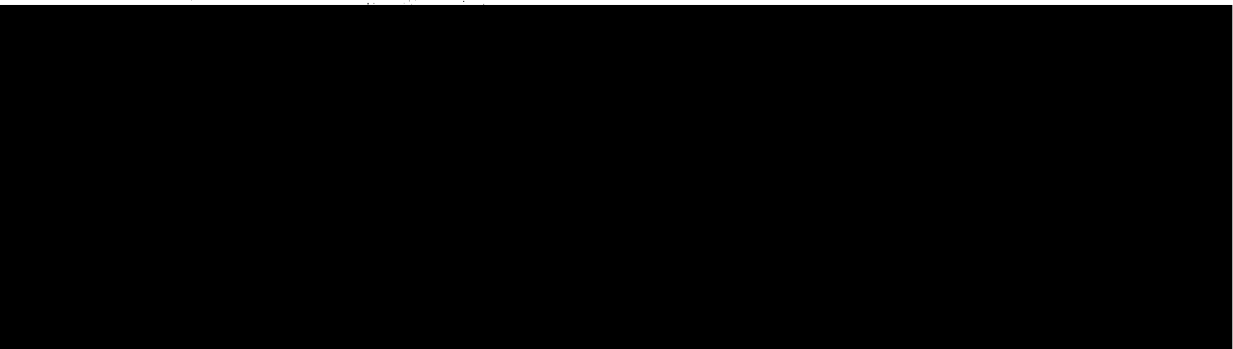
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [Redacted]



1. The award by Bisharah Khuri, President of the Lebanese Republic, of the decoration "Lebanese Order of Merit, Exceptional Class," to General Franco was entirely owing to the offer of arms and ammunition made by the Franco Government of Spain to the Arab countries. The decoration was to be presented to Franco in Madrid by the Lebanese Chargé d'Affaires in Spain, Salamah.
2. In return Franco granted the Grand Cross of Charles III to President Khuri. The trip which the Minister of Spain in Cairo, Alonso Caro y del Arroyo, made to Beirut in July, had as its object the presentation of the Franco decoration to President Khuri.
3. Caro's trip to Beirut coincided with the presence in that capital of a special envoy of Franco's. The arrival of both Franco men in Lebanon was the result of the offer of arms to the Arab states by Spain. Not only Lebanese authorities were to take part in the negotiations, but also representatives of the Arab League.
4. It had been planned that other decorations were to be granted to Franco by Arab states, and it was agreed beforehand that the second one was to be from Syria. This series of decorations was requested by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the time that the offer of arms was made, as the Ministry claimed that such superior service to the Arabs "required that they honor the person of Franco as he deserved, for his generosity and his love of the Arab cause in Palestine." [Redacted] Comment. Date of this offer not otherwise specified.)
5. The Franco representatives let it be understood by the delegates of the Arab League that, in spite of the strongest desires of Franco to supply the arms and ammunition offered, there were very serious reasons for delaying consummation of the deal. One of the reasons given was a threat of trouble with Great Britain if Spain should supply arms to the Arabs, which threat, according to them, had been fulfilled by the collapse of the present Anglo-Spanish commercial agreement.

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6. In spite of the efforts of the Arab delegates to develop methods by which Spain might deliver the arms offered, they did not succeed in obtaining any firm, concrete promise from the Franco representatives.
7. The delivery of the arms and ammunition was deferred by Franco's representatives to an indefinite date. Their only promise was to carry to Madrid the plans worked out by the Arabs for secret and efficient delivery of the arms.
8. As a consequence, the delegates of the Arab League stated to Franco's representatives that the award of the remaining Arab decorations would be suspended until the question of the arms deal was solved and the willingness of Spain to deliver the goods became apparent.

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