

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Activities of Members of Greek and Russian Orthodox Churches  
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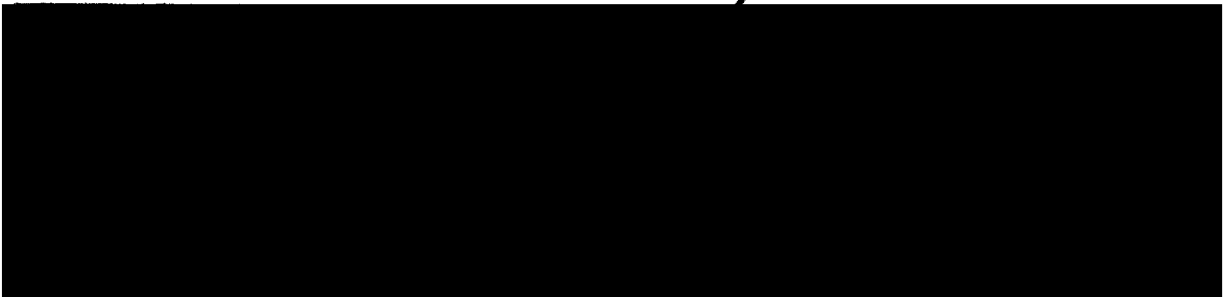
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1. The Soviet Legation in Beirut is reliably reported to have received a list of books written by Caucasian authors on industrial, scientific, and economic developments in the Moslem areas of the Soviet Union. The list was compiled by a certain Shirianov, who is described as the head of the Caucasian Cultural Department.
2. Alexis, the Patriarch of Moscow, is reported by a reliable source to have sent a sum equivalent to 1,500 pounds sterling to the Patriarch of Antioch, Alexandros Tahhan (who lives in Damascus), for distribution among the Orthodox refugees from Palestine. This sum is to be divided between Damascus, Jerusalem, and Alexandria, with an allocation of the equivalent of 250 pounds sterling for Armenian refugees.
3. Archimandrite Basilios Samahah,\* who accompanied Ilyas Karam\*\* (the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Mount Lebanon) to Moscow in December 1947, has remained in Moscow. He is reported by a well-placed source to have been appointed by the Patriarch of Antioch to take charge of a monastery in or near Moscow that has belonged for many years to the Church of Antioch. Samahah also acts as Tahhan's representative in matters between the Greek and Russian Orthodox Churches, according to source.
3. In addition to these duties, source states that Archimandrite Samahah is acting as Oriental Adviser to the Russian Orthodox Church. His outgoing mail is routed via the Soviet Foreign Office to the Soviet Legation in Beirut.
4. Archimandrite Samahah's activities in supplying pro-Soviet articles to the Lebanese press have called forth a protest from the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and notables of the Greek Orthodox Community, who have requested Tahhan to recall Samahah.

25X1A6a Comment. Samahah has been reported by several sources of varying reliability to be engaged in propaganda and espionage activities for the Soviets.

25X1A6a \*\* Comment. Archbishop Karam has denied that he is pro-soviet, but admits that he received three hundred pounds from Daniel Solod, Soviet Minister to Lebanon, for expenses toward his trip to Moscow. 25X1X6

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