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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Syria
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



1. After the coup d'etat in Syria on 30 March 1949, General Husni Za'im approached Hajj-al-Din Jabiri, Minister of Public Works in the 'Asm Government, and invited him to accept the position of Public Works Counsellor in the interim administration. Source states that Jabiri, who is a strong supporter of a modified Fertile Crescent plan on the lines of an autonomous federation between Syria, Iraq, and Transjordan, asserted that the majority of Syrian party leaders were also in favor of such a scheme for Arab federation, but that they hesitated to propose it to General Za'im or to take any action unless they were sure of the approval of Iraq and Great Britain. Therefore, without this approval, Jabiri stated that he was unwilling to collaborate with General Za'im.
2. Meanwhile, Jabiri, as well as Michel Hyan, Minister of National Economy in the Jamil Mardam Government, and Sami Kabbarah, an opposition leader, have been attempting to ascertain whether the British support General Za'im, and whether they advise a union of Syria with Iraq.
3. Jabiri believes that Syrian dissatisfaction with Za'im's policy of dictatorship is growing, according to source.

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