

COUNTRY Syria/Lebanon

DATE DISTR. 13 May 1948

SUBJECT Communist Activities in the Levant

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PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. LISTED BELOW

DATE OF INFO 15-24 April 1948

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

[REDACTED]

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SOURCE

[REDACTED]

Communist Party Meetings

1. [REDACTED]  
2. [REDACTED]

- 3. As a result of these meetings, Communist leaders decided to:
  - a. Cease distributing circulars;
  - b. Discontinue contacts and avoid trouble with other groups;
  - c. Buy arms and ammunition secretly;
  - d. Collect money from members.

Relations With the Soviet Legation

4. [REDACTED] the situation of the Communist Party and to request financial aid. [REDACTED] the Soviet Legation could not help openly for the present but that the Party should be patient, avoid

CLASSIFICATION

[REDACTED]

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conflict with local laws, and not contradict the Government's wishes. [REDACTED] promised them financial aid to feed needy members of the Party.

Arming of North Lebanese Communists

5. It has been reported that [REDACTED] has been won over by the Communists. His home has become a rendezvous for Lebanese Communists and he has allegedly reported substantial help to the Party. [REDACTED] allegedly claimed that he can place 3,000 men at the disposal of the Communists, with whose help he could control the entire northern section of Lebanon.

6. [REDACTED] has requested a quantity of light arms for his men.

[REDACTED] The Soviet Legation may very likely provide those arms. [REDACTED] pays particular attention to this northern region because [REDACTED] it is more susceptible to communist principles than other regions in Lebanon [REDACTED].

Arrest of Communists in Damascus

7. Rashad 'Isa of the Syrian Communist Party, who was charged recently with having fired on those who demonstrated before Communist Party headquarters in Damascus, has been freed by the Attorney General of Damascus who cancelled the examination of 'Isa for this charge. Instead the Attorney General has summoned Bahjat Baghdash, brother of Khalid Baghdash, and Faysal Rakibi for examination for this charge.

8. 'Isa was seen in Beirut during the week of 19 April. He reportedly called on Soviet Minister Solod while members of the Soviet Damascus Legation were present.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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