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TO : Chief, NEA

DATE: 15 October 1952

FROM : []

SUBJECT: GENERAL- Operational
SPECIFIC- Interview with Ex-Mufti

1. The attached notes were turned over to CLIVE by James BELL, Middle East correspondent for TIME Magazine, on an oral interview conducted with the ex-Mufti Hajj Amin al-HUSAYNI on 8 October 1952.

Attachment: As Indicated

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Q: is there any compromise?

A: "no solution which is unjust or unfair can be accepted. no person would accept anything in exchange for his country. that's why I believe there is no solution except for the return of Palestinians to their land and homes. that is the only just and fair solution.

"apparently the palestine problem is quite simple. you say it concerns only a million or 1.5 million people. but actually it is much deeper and much more important. palestine is a sacred place to many people. it concerns 100 of millions of people in various parts of the world. palestine is also the concern of all arabs and all moslems. anyone who goes to pakestan, afghanistan, iran can see how deeply they are concerned and how deeply they feel.

"upon the solution depends the whole future relationship between the moslem world on the one side and britain and america on the other."

"now it is clear to all moslems and all arabs that the authorities responsible for inserting the dagger of israel in the body of the arab world are not the jews alone, but also britain and the british who worked for many years to establish israel, and in later years, unfortunately the americans who shared the responsibility for this very serious step.

for what is israel? what could the jews do without britain and america?

you mustn't believe in any possibility of a real sincere and hearty cooperation between the people of the moslem countries on the one hand and britain and america on the other before there is a just solution in palestine. There might be some governments and some officials who out of courtesy or private reasons say we want to cooperate and we'd like to cooperate. But the people themselves will never be sincere in cooperation so long as the british and american governments stick to their present policy toward arabs israel."

He was getting warmed up. he took off his turban. flat head. much tougher

It might occur to you to ask what change I believe is necessary in british and american policy. (Pause) Has it occurred to you? Oh yes. (smile)

"One who knows history knows that if it weren't for britain the jews could have never made a state. britain opened the gates and made it all possible. Then after the war america supported the jews financially politically and otherwise.

"Now we don't ask america britain and america to undo what they have done or repair what they have spoiled. we ask only a simple and just thing. Britain and America (i prefer to mention britain first always) should ~~now take steps~~ from now on an absolutely neutral attitude in the conflict between the arabs and the moslems on the one hand and the jewish world on the other. This should be a neutrality in military economic and political points of view. By neutrality I mean britain and america should not help us and should not help the jews.

"If Britain and the U.S. will adopt this attitude of neutrality, the arabs and the moslems will be their friends. We are ready to forget what both have done and will begin to cooperate whole heartedly with the british and the americans.

can you see any more simple and just demand for friendship and real, sincere cooperation?

if the ~~anglo~~ anglo-americans at least do not take a neutral attitude we arabs and moslems shall take a neutral attitude in the conflict between the east and the west.

(1)
Britain gave a promise to the jews, she has long ago fulfilled it. why doesnt she now adopt this neutrality after she has realized for the jews an old hope?

similarly, america has given israel an important hand. why can she not now be satisfied with that much and adopt neutrality?

if the anglo-americans will not adopt this simple demand for neutrality the arab people will be justified ~~in~~ and have every reason to believe that they support the jewish ambition of uprooting arabs and moslems from the Middle east--that includes lebanon syria jordan, iraq and parts of egypt and south america--as they have already stated. (he said over the Knesset it says jews will build empire from Nile to tigris).

in order to understand anothers point of view you must put yourself in his place. if you were an arab what would your feeling be toward people who are supporting your enemy? would you request anything short of neutrality?

Americans look on me as Hitler because I was in Germany during the war. I believe the reasons for which I went to Germany were justified. in Palestine the English tried to capture me and take me to seychel island. I ran away to syria. The french tried to capture me and I had to go to Iraq. and later I had to go to Iran. Marshal Zevell put a price of 25,000 pounds on my head. I finally had to leave the Middle East. I asked to stay in Turkey but the Turks, under pressure from the British, would not let me stay. I had to go to Europe. In europe where could I go? England? France? the only possible place was Germany

In my radio talks I never spoke against america (he's new ~~one~~). it is not our policy to take a hostile attitude toward america I used to mention Britain. I limited myself to the injustices Britain had done to the arabs in general and palestinese in particular.

because I did this, americans look upon me as the enemy. how should an arab look on america which has supports israel our enemy with millions of dollars (not every day) on every occasion?

... britain and america help the jews not only with financial aid but by pressure upon arab states to make peace with israel. why should america do that? apparently america is gaining the hostility of 500 million moslems for the sake of the jews and britain. it is not in their interest to do that.

I dont say america should sacrifice the interests of britain and jews. isn't it better that she be friends with both sides by adopting neutrality. then she can help make peace between them, but if she supports one against the other how can she help make peace?

we are not a small nation. arab and moslems number 500 million. such a big group can not be wiped out and neither can its interests be overlooked. isn't it in the interest of america to be friendly with such a group? regardless of humanitarianism and justice you'll see its in americas interest to be friendly with these people. this friendship will come in return for neutrality. The problem of palestine is not only the concern of 1.5 million arabs. last year and the year before I took trips to pakistan and afghanistan and I'd like to assure you these people are just as interested in palestine as the palestinians are?

(4) (questions and answers about commonwealth, crown, monarchies etc.)

(5) Q: It has been said that the only solution to palestine is to eliminate the jews?

A: "we don't mean at all to eliminate the jews." not at all. if ~~america~~ britain and america would stop supporting israel now jews will immediately loose 80% of their pride and fanaticism. then and only then will we be able to come to an understanding with them when their extremeness is gone. then we can bring about a right and just solution. elimination of the jews is not in our program. we have no idea of wiping out the jews. jews lived amongst us for 13 centuries. we protected them as a minority at time when there was no america and britain and europe were far away and we were more powerful. this idea is not in our thoughts its never been in our history. we were known in history for our tolerance

One man's view. unprofessional. ... should. Said he would stay to end of ... Two ways. to be ... out of ... and ...