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References: Carlos MARTEL: TYA-272, TUK-507

Source, Operational Data, and Comments:

Jorge ANTONIO: HAB-402, CS-17540,
WHFM 45-53
Amerigo BARRIOS: HAB-110, HAB-330

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Subject: Intensified Argentine Relations Report No. HA 1055
With the Arab States; Dissemination of the Neutrality Concept Date of Information: 23 January 1954

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Source: Intested Observer with contacts in high-level government circles.

1. Despite the newly developed Argentine friendship with the United States, the Peronist machine continues to work against the capitalist world with propaganda and political activities in every direction. This is particularly true with respect to the Arab world, with which PERON sought to establish closest relations from the beginning.

2. While President URBIZU of Chile was in Buenos Aires in July 1953, he was accompanied by President PERON on a visit to Jorge ANTONIO, President of the RECHEDERS-BENZ Company in Argentina. Jorge ANTONIO is of Lebanese origin and plays an important role in the resident Arab community in Argentina, which comprises about 70,000 persons. The Arab businessmen of Argentina financially supported PERON's election campaign similarly as the Arab businessmen of Chile (TAFERU Group) supported the election preparations of URBIZU. Jorge ANTONIO is a principal agent of the Egyptian Embassy¹ and a member of RULEL's circle.

3. In November 1953 two personal representatives of PERON returned from Cairo to Buenos Aires:

- a. Carlos WARREN, former German Army Colonel who was sent to Cairo as late as April 1953 to influence General NAQUIB against John Foster INFLES, whose visit in the Egyptian capital was due at that time. WARREN stayed on in Egypt and also went to several other Arab states as a representative of the Swiss firm "La Plata Cereal" in Buenos Aires.
- b. Americo BARRIOS, editor of the Peronist daily, "Democracia", who was sent to Egypt and other Arab States in August, after the visit of Milton EISENHOWER in Buenos Aires.

Both men have contributed to the circumstance that Egyptian policy has acquired an anti-American coloring. WARREN was introduced to highest Egyptian officials not by the Argentine Minister SALAZAR² or the Argentine Commercial Attache, but by Mattes KHURI, a Cultural Attache, who is a confidant of General NAQUIB and the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem.

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4. During his stay in Syria, where he was also accompanied by KHEI, Carlos WARKEN was successful in arranging with the Syrian Government for the former Syrian Minister in Buenos Aires, Djaki el ZABI, to be sent to Rio de Janeiro as Minister. In March 1953, as Djaki el ZABI was about to leave Buenos Aires to return to Damascus, he had been presented with the Party Badge of the Peronist Party by PERON personally, with which no foreign diplomat had ever before been "honored". Upon receiving the Party Badge, the Syrian Minister ceremoniously declared that he would forever be a soldier of Peronism and would spread the doctrine of Justicialism. Source learned from a former Foreign Office official that the posting of Djaki el ZABI to Rio de Janeiro had been effected in Damascus so that el ZABI might try to mobilize all Arab businessmen and other elements in Brazil for a victory of the Pro-Peronist Nationalists in the forthcoming elections.

5. The idea of sending Djaki el ZABI to Brazil originated in a conversation between Minister Raul MENDE and Ambassador Carlos LEHENA, who was recently named Argentine Ambassador to Egypt. LEHENA, who has been Chief of the South American Section of the Foreign Ministry, is a favorite of the PUREL group. He was formerly Ambassador to Chile, where he worked with German Nazi circles against the GONZALEZ VIDELA regime.

6. About two months ago, at the time when the possibility of a U. S.-Pakistan Military Pact became known to the public, the Argentine Propaganda Under-Secretariat sent 10,000 copies of "Dogma Peronista" to Pakistan in order to spread the neutrality idea. The translation was made by the Pakistan university professor, Miam RAMZAN, who had spent several months in Argentina the previous summer and is the leader of the Moslem movement, "Ahmedi." According to a former Foreign Office official, Argentine diplomacy has taken "Good-Will Measures" to bring about a meeting between General HAGUIB and the Minister President of Pakistan.

7. Former German Colonel, Franz ROSTEL, returned to Buenos Aires from Damascus in October 1953, where he has been Technical Advisor to the Syrian Army. He was sent immediately by PERON to Asuncion, Paraguay, where he was to fulfill a secret mission. Two Croat Ustashi officers, Major PELAJAVICH and Major JONKICH, returned from Syria together with ROSTEL. They had been carrying out courier service between the individual Ustashi groups in the Arab States.

8. PERON has invited the President of Lebanon to Buenos Aires for a lengthy visit in April.

(1) The Egyptian Legation was raised to Embassy status on 25 September 1953.