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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1. Prior to his departure for Moscow on 29 July, Daniel Solod, Soviet Minister to Syria and Lebanon, went to Damascus and conferred with the Patriarch of Antioch, Alexandros Tahan. He also conferred with a number of Palestinians, including Dr. Rushdi Tamini, Wasif Kamal, and Da'ud Husayni, all loyal followers of the Grand Mufti, Hajj Amin Husayni. Solod met these Palestinians in the home of Dr. Sa'id Fattah Imam, former aide-de-camp of Rashid Ali Gaylani. Also present in the home of Dr. Imam were a number of Syrians, including Mazhar Quwwatli, former Dean of the Lawyers' Guild in Damascus and cousin of the President of Syria; Munir Rayyis, publisher of the newspaper al-Barada; and Muhammad Mubarak, head of the Ikhwan al-Muslimin in Damascus and a Deputy in the Syrian Government.
2. The conferees discussed with Solod the injustice suffered by the Arabs in Palestine, and they asked Solod to convey to the Soviet Government the desire of the Arabs and the Moslems to win the sympathy of the USSR concerning the Palestine problem. They stated that it was in the best interests of the Soviet Government that it support the Arabs, now that the Anglo-Americans had supported the Zionists.
3. Solod said that, personally, he supported the Arab cause in Palestine, and that it would be possible to persuade his government to support the Arabs if they made a united appeal for Soviet aid. Solod promised to convey to the Soviet Government the views of the Arabs and to try to obtain a favorable answer. To facilitate this mission, Solod asked those present at the meeting to sign a memorandum expressing their views and referring to the general indignation and tension now prevailing throughout the Arab world.
4. Accordingly, after the meeting, the Syrians and Palestinians present drafted a memorandum, had it signed by a number of Syrian and Palestinian notables, and delivered it to deputy Muhammad Mubarak, who in turn took it to Solod in Beirut. The memorandum was addressed to Stalin.

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5. Previous to his departure for Moscow, Solod visited the Mufti of Lebanon, Muhammad Tawfiq Khalid, and asserted his determination to intervene with the Soviet Government in favor of the Arabs in the Palestine question. Solod stated to the Mufti that, in order to strengthen this appeal, the Arab League should officially approach the Soviet Government on this matter. If that were not possible, Solod continued, the religious leaders in the Arab countries should sign a memorandum to the Soviet Government on the Palestine question.

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