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American Legation
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MEMORANDUM FOR FILES:

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Mr. Chefik HADDAD called today. He is an Iraqi who has served on various missions for the Iraqi Government and at one time was their Military Attache in Washington. He is now in business, mainly buying scrap metals.

He referred to his recent talk with Minister Minor and in the latter's absence from the office wanted to "report" further. He saw the Prime Minister, Sami Bey SOLH, on February 22nd. He said there is a proposal (1) to create a healthy public opinion in Iraq, Lebanon and Pakistan to interpret the Moslem religion on the basis of tolerance and to condemn terrorism, Communist or otherwise, by close cooperation mainly among Moslem religious societies or with any other cultural societies, including Christian organizations, in those areas. This is to be informal, non-political, and without any undue publicity or reference to the Arab League. (2) to interchange information from time to time between the three countries as appropriate on Communist activities in those countries, including consultation on ways and means of combatting Communism.

According to Mr. Haddad, Sami Bey Solh agreed most heartily with all this and had a talk along these lines with Dr. Fadl JAMALI, ex-Foreign Minister and present head of the Iraqi delegation to the UN, who happened to be in Beirut over the past weekend. Zaffarula Khan, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, also was in Beirut over the past weekend and is on his way to Baghdad and Cairo. Jamali has returned to Baghdad. All of these, according to Mr. Haddad, were fully in accord with the idea, as well as the Minister of Finance, Emile LAHOUD (Maronite), who somehow was drawn into the conversation.

Furthermore, Sami Bey Solh expressed the opinion that economic improvement of the population is the best way to combat Communism in Lebanon and other countries, and he is especially anxious to get early action on (1) electricity and water projects; (2) model homes for slum dwellers (for which he hoped the Americans could use the old aerodrome site); and (3) he said the Arts et Metiers have some government-owned land which they would like to sell to any American company, American Government or UN activity so that they could use the money thus gained for other productive projects in Lebanon. Sami Bey said he had been looking into the American Point Four project and is impatient that it does not get out of the talking stage and wants to do something at once. Mr. Haddad expressed the opinion that he not only wants this for the benefit of the country but also to consolidate his own political position.

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I inquired from Mr. Haddad whether he was presenting two separate ideas, or whether there was any close connection between them. He said they are closely connected in Sami Solh's thinking. He concluded that the Prime Minister had asked him to convey these thoughts particularly to the American Legation and to those in the Legation who are concerned with Point Four matters.

I thanked Mr. Haddad and assured him we are in very close touch with the Lebanese authorities on these matters, particularly Point Four matters, and are of course happy to discuss them with the appropriate Lebanese authorities at all times. I said that perhaps we had gotten farther along than the Prime Minister has had opportunity to learn in the short period since he has taken office, and concluded by saying that we do not proceed with any projects except on the express request of the Government concerned.

Mr. Haddad then said that of course Dr. Fadl Jamali will present these ideas to Premier Nuri Pasha in Baghdad, and he himself will be going to Baghdad before long and will try to promote the matter further.

HKE
John H. Bruins
Counselor of Legation