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About this record

This summary, compiled by the Middle East Intelligence Centre, uses information received through Anglo-Egyptian censorship to provide a picture of various subjects relating to Nazi Germany including:

- Germany. Internal Conditions;
- conditions in neutral territories;
- military information;
- economic warfare;
- evasions of censorship;
- hostile Arab agents.

The information on each subject is largely drawn from intercepted correspondence, and excerpts are quoted or paraphrased throughout as evidence. It is noted at the beginning of the file that the information contained within aims to give an idea of what 'the people, as distinct from the government, are thinking'.

There are five attached appendices labelled A-E (folios 8-18). Appendices A, B, D and E are translations of intercepted letters which have previously been quoted. Appendix C is a report from the Deputy Chief Postal Censor which provides a general outline of European opinion on the Second World War based upon information read in intercepted correspondence.



Previous File.
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To be kept in Secret Cupboard

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL) DEPARTMENT.

IOR: L/P/8/12/320

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1939 .

SUBJECT:

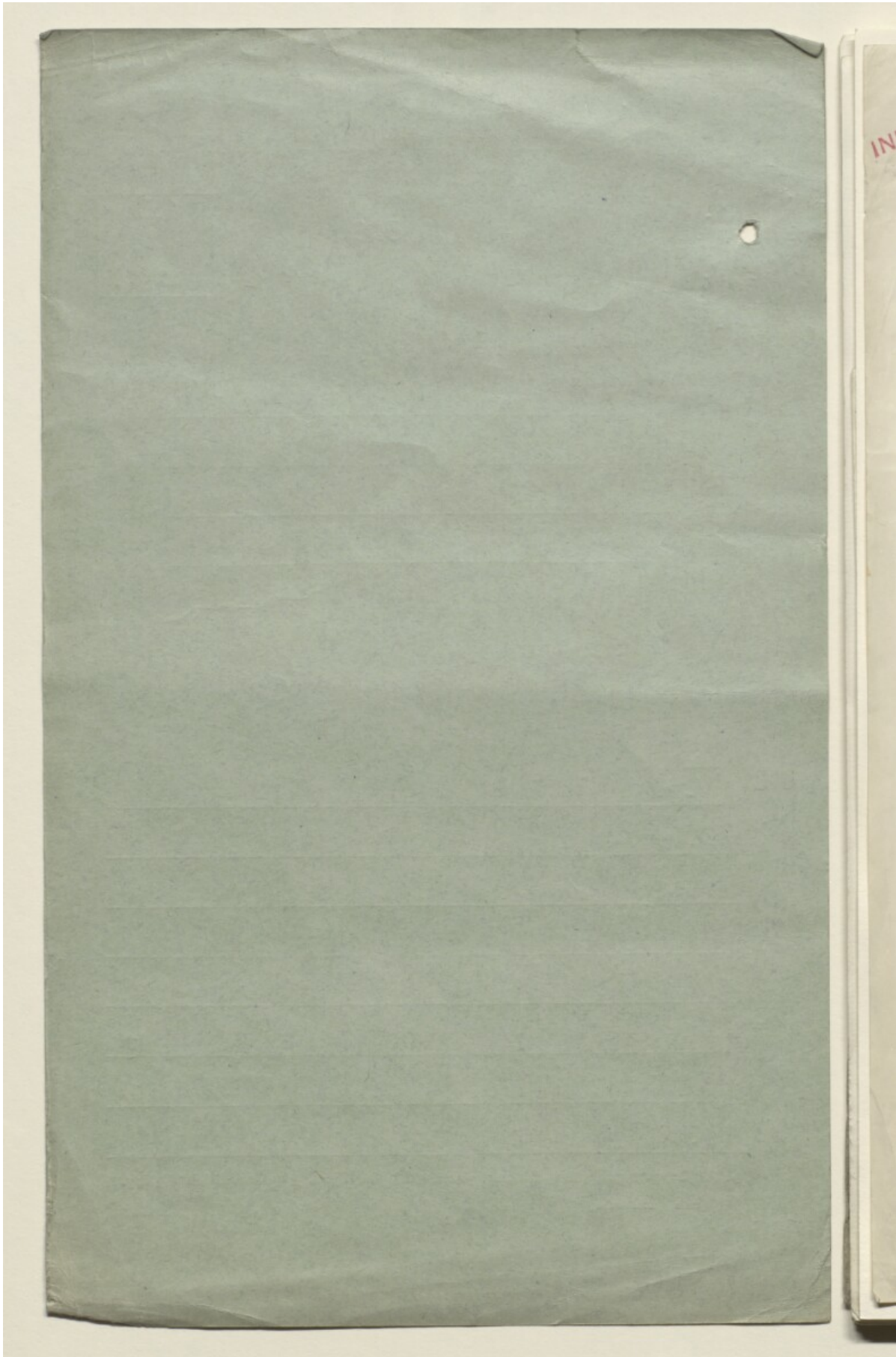
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Anglo-Egyptian Censorship
Information
Summaries

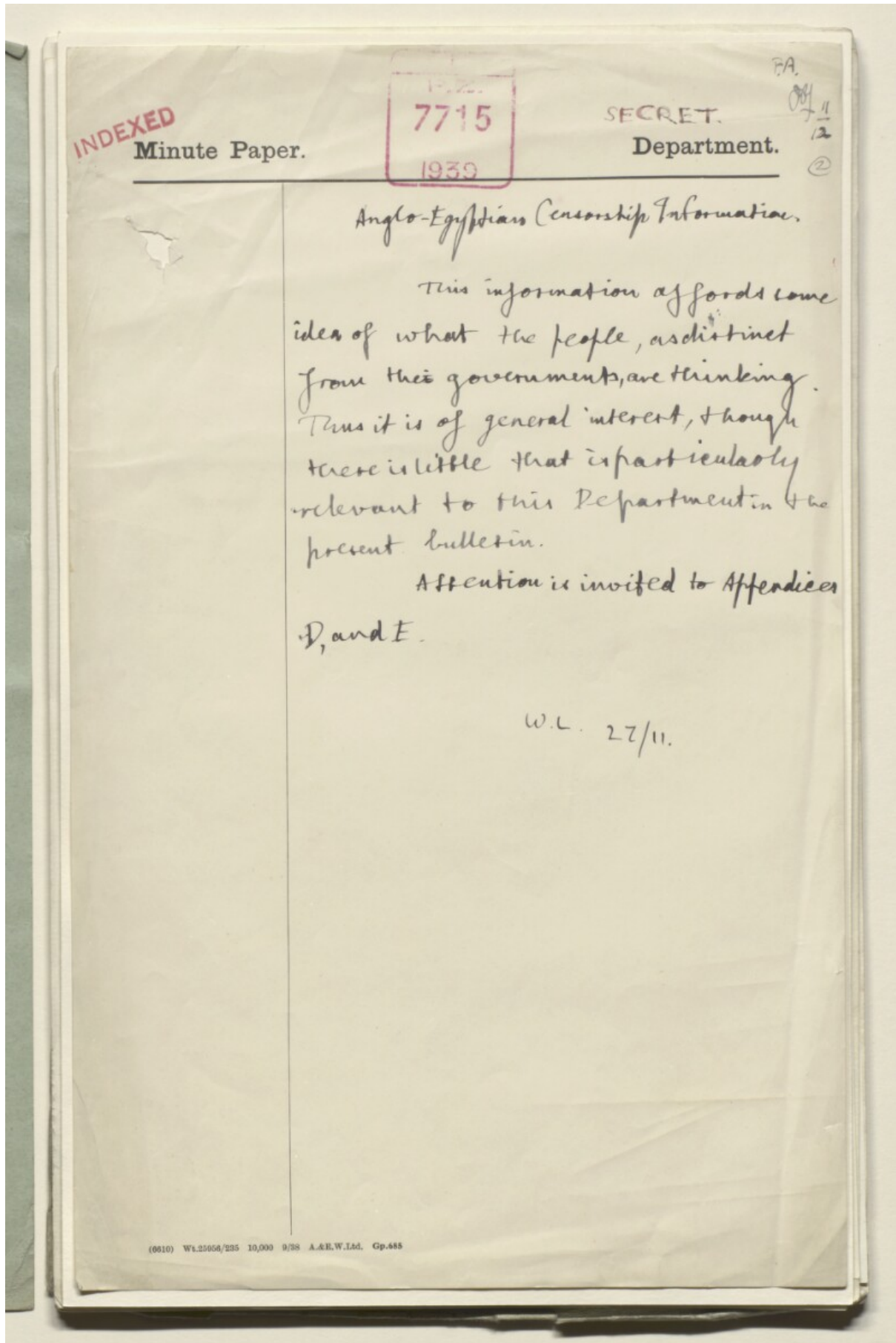
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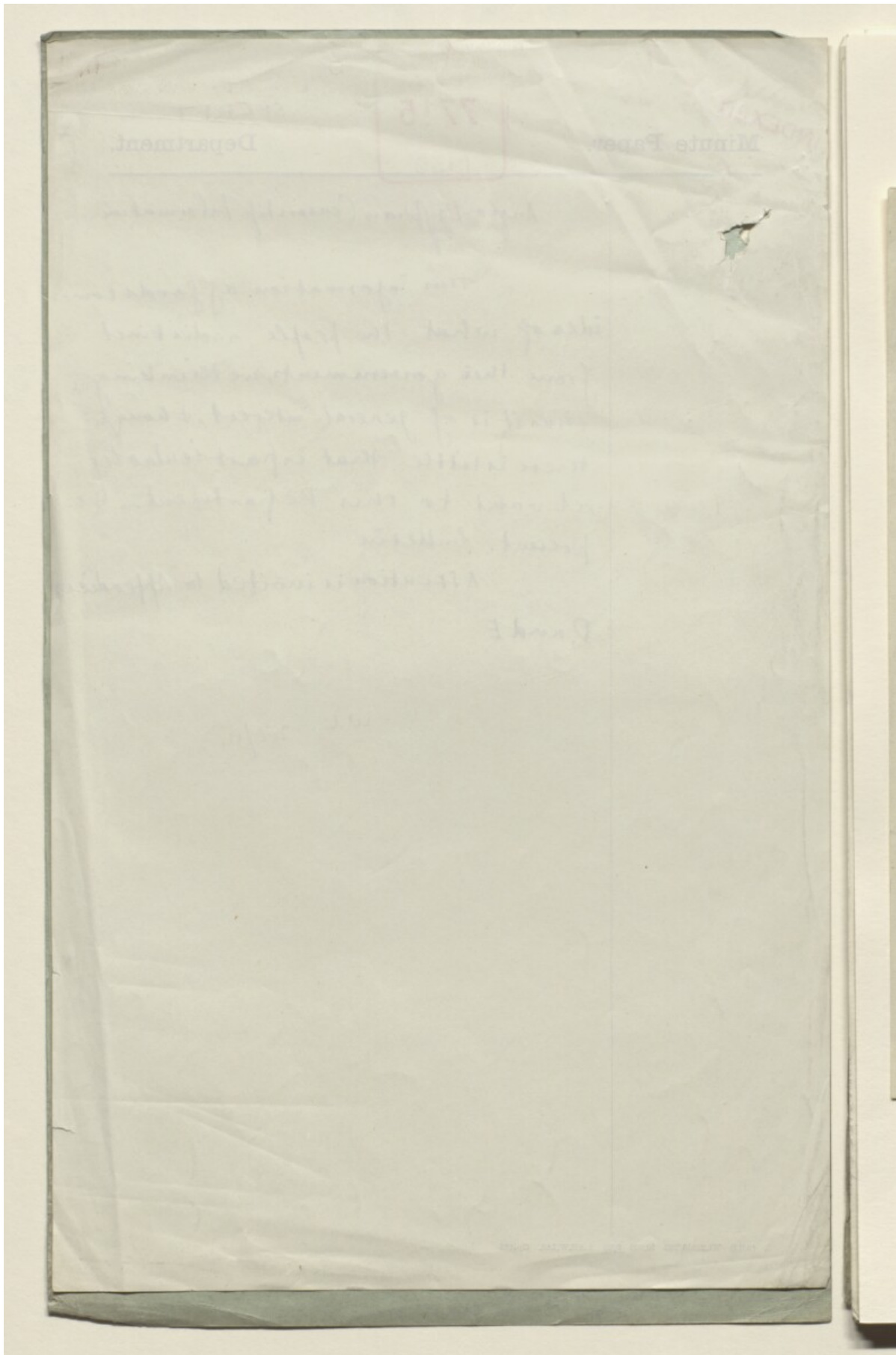
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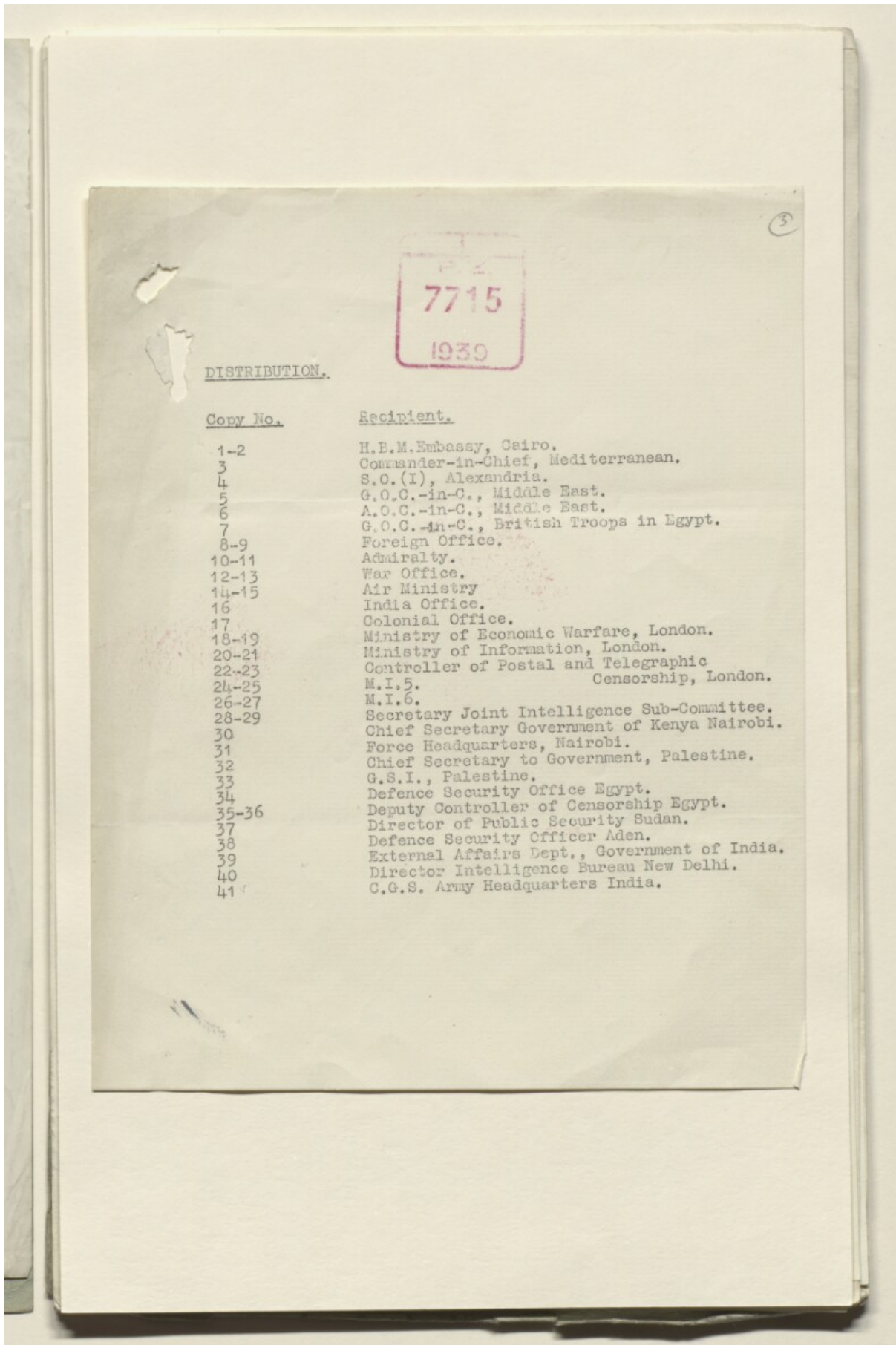
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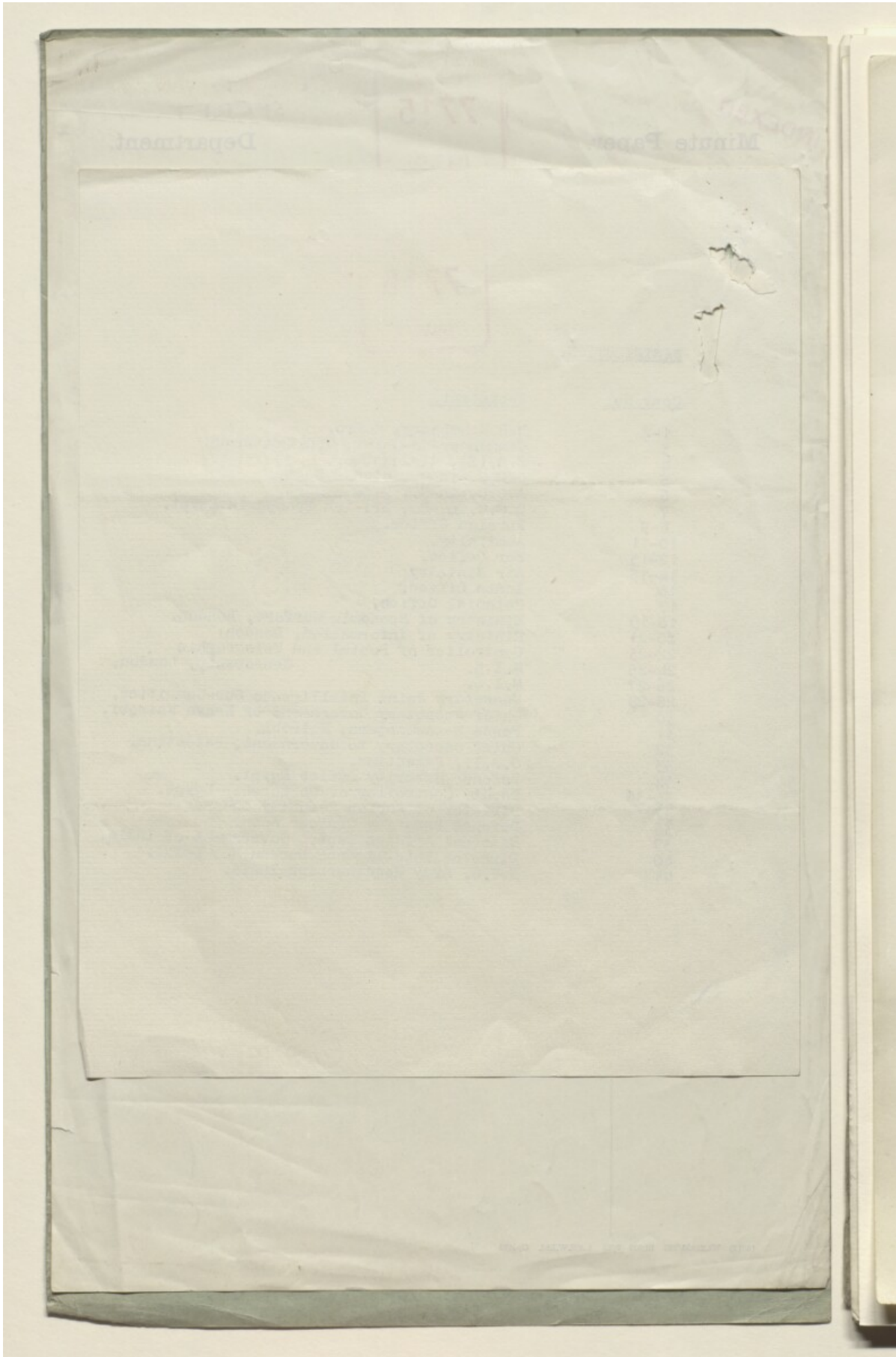
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MIDDLE EAST INTELLIGENCE CENTRE.

Information received through Anglo- Egyptian Censorship.

Summary No. 2. November 7 - 13, 1939.

GERMANY.

1. Internal Conditions.

Letters written from Germans (including Austrians, Czechs and Poles) continue to give accounts showing the two different points of view of internal conditions (ref. para. 1 of Summary No. 1 dated 10 November) in Germany. It is noticeable that of late most of the letters in praise of the Hitler regime and containing all sorts of accusations against Germany's enemies were written by women, young and old. It may be that their menfolk are mobilised, or otherwise too occupied to have time for private correspondence. Letters relating the miserable condition of the country were almost entirely - during the period under review - from men - Jews, Czechs and the like.

One woman from Berlin writes, on 18 October advising her compatriot (female) in Cairo, "to rest calmly with confidence in Germany". Another, an Armenian by birth, but married to a German, says, "Do not believe the lies which are told over the whole world regarding Germany. People have confidence in their Fuehrer, who knows what he is doing and why he is doing it. Little by little the people of the world are coming to understand it and the Fuehrer's speeches will have their effect". Still another writes enthusiastically in support of Hitler and condemns the British in the strongest of terms. She says that a male acquaintance (Kleinberger) "had to present himself at once, though he is not yet at the front". This woman has at any rate the courage of her convictions for she states that she is going through a course in order to fit herself for war-work.

Two women, one from Munich and one from Gorlitz, make the most vehement attacks on the Poles. One says, "the Poles have been torturing Germans in Poland, piercing their eyes with pins and cutting off their hands. The population (Polish) is so beastial". The other refers to, "the miserable and perverted Poles, their Government fled in the moment of danger".

2. Writing from a town in Moravia, on 11 October a certain Kosova states, "All the shops are closed. There is nothing to buy, not even with ration cards. Six dekagrams of butter per person per week and 20 dekagrams of sugar. There are no shoes or stockings in fact there is absolutely nothing. I still have a few potatoes. I am not able to kill our own pig, because it is forbidden to kill for less than five persons in the house. Our censorship as well as yours opens letters".

A woman evidently on a visit to Sweden, writes, "I hope you feel sorry for me in our terrible state of war. I am at present in Sweden for fourteen days but must go back to Germany soon, and to the front as a Red Cross Sister. Every night I cry with horror, so grey is the outlook. We live worse than beasts. No one has control of their nerves any longer, and one sees a spy in every fellow creature. Please do not discuss war with me - I

/am



am really not responsible for such stupidity. I have a premonition that I will not live through all this."

A Jewish doctor, writing from abroad to a German doctor in Switzerland states, "The main thing is to hope that later we will live in happiness in our common Fatherland (Germany). We are making plans already".

A letter (Appendix 'A') from a German-Swiss oculist in Switzerland to his daughter in Alexandria gives an interesting analysis of Germany's position as seen from over the border.

3. Propaganda Activities.

A letter (Appendix 'B') from a German subject living in Canton (China) - the letter is signed "Andreas" only, but the envelope bears the name of the firm, "Kunst Albers, Canton" - to a lady in Wilhelmshaven, urges the lady and her (?) husband to travel out to China via Memel, Latvia, Russia and Manchukuo, where they will be met, "by one of my officers" at Harbin. From Harbin the party is recommended to proceed to Canton via Dairen and thence by boat to Canton. The writer goes on to say, "I am just as much at war here as you are in Germany. I fight here for German-Japanese friendship. It can certainly not be a matter of indifference to us whether Japan is our friend or helps our enemies." It appears that "Andreas" gave up his appointment with the Chinese in order to be able to assist the Japanese. It may be that he was on the German Military Mission with the Chinese Government, and is now serving as an instructor with the Japanese Army, hence the expression, "one of my officers".

4. Merchant Shipping.

Reference para. 14 of Summary No. 1 a letter from the Lloyd Triestino Company's office at Massawa gives a full list of the German merchant ships lying in Italian East African ports on 30th October. They are:-

At Massawa. Coburg, Oder, Oesfeld, Oliva, Bertram Rickmers, Wartenfels, Frauenfels, Liechtenfels, Liebenfels.

At Assab. Gera.

At Kismayu. Uckermark, Tannenfels, Ascari, Kionga.

A telegram, dated 10 November from the firm of Gellatly Hankey and Co. of Khartoum to the Salvage Association in London states that the Captain of the S.S. Liebenfels, lying at Massawa refuses to discharge any of the ship's cargo as he says the ship's voyage is not ended. Only on instructions from his owners, the Hansa Line in Bremen, will he transfer cargo. Also the port authorities at Massawa refuse to allow any transhipment of such cargoes unless the port of shipment, the port of destination and the consignees are all neutral.

5. Germans Interned Abroad.

The International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva, writing to their representative in Egypt, M. Georges Vaucher, on 21 October, say that the German Government attaches particular importance to ascertaining the whereabouts of the father of Reiche-Minister Hess who is believed to be interned in Egypt. Actually M. Hess, senior, left Egypt shortly before Egypt broke off relations with Germany. Therefore, if he is not back in Germany, under the protection of his son, it may be surmised that he is not such a keen and enthusiastic Nazi as his offspring.

/CONDITIONS



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CONDITIONS IN NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

6. Baltic States.

On 13 October the firm of H. Thiessen & Co., of Talinn, wrote to a cotton-exporting firm in Alexandria as follows:-

"Most probably you have heard the news, that Germany is calling the Germans in Estonia and Latvia home to Germany. For serious political reasons, our Mr. Heinrich Thiessen, who is an Estonian subject, has decided to join the migrants and move over to Germany. We will liquidate our firm in Estonia on the 31st December, 1939.

We are very sorry to leave Estonia, where we have spent more than 30 happy years, and to leave behind all our local friends and connections. By the way, we shall write you in a few days and recommend you a firm which would be ready to take over your agency in Estonia.

We intend to continue our business somewhere in Posen (Germany), or even in Lodz, and in case that you could entrust us with your agency for Poland (Lodz), we would be very pleased indeed."

A lady belonging to one of the old Baltic Baron families writes from Talinn, on 8 October, saying that all Germans have to be evacuated from Estonia. She goes on to say, "We have to leave our houses, our furniture, our silver, our laundry. With our lives and one bag in our hands we have to go to Germany. God help us. We don't know where we are going - perhaps to the Polish Corridor, perhaps to Africa. Think of us poor Baltic people - a war and a revolution. They take away our goods and now make us leave our homes. We have 4 - 8 days to get ready. I don't know what to think"

7. Italy.

A Croat. writing from Ruse (Yugoslavia) shows a bitter hatred of Italy and things Italian. He relates "Around Trieste there is a large minority population, almost a million people who under Italian 'protection' have neither schools nor even the right to live. Strangely enough they are pro-Hitlerites, at least they are anti-Fascists and anti-Mussolini to the marrow of their bones. Your Uncle Micek has recently returned from Trieste. He is very pessimistic about the war and thinks it will last for three years. He says that in these days it is difficult to distinguish between friends and foes. They say that in Germany it is forbidden to weep for those who have fallen in the war, or even to wear mourning."

8. Italian East Africa.

A Greek press correspondent, who appears to be in the Customs Service at Jibuti reports on 20 October that the situation in Abyssinia, "is very bad for the Italians". He says that "Abeba" has performed miracles and that he should be recognised as the Abyssinian "Saint". Three times has he been called upon to surrender, but he replies "leave me alone". It is said he will wait for the external situation to become more clear. "Abeba's" full name is Abeba Aregal and he is one of the principal rebel leaders in Northern Abyssinia.

/ A Greek



A Greek woman living in Jibuti writing to a country-woman in Athens reports that on 14 October many Greeks, deported by the Italians from Abyssinia, were waiting in Jibuti for a ship to Greece. People who wish to remain in Jibuti some time must deposit at least Pcs. 4000 with the authorities there.

Another Greek, also on 14 October, states that people who left Abyssinia with 'Return' visas on their passports should be informed that the Italian authorities in Abyssinia cancelled all these 'Return' visas as from 5 September. He also says that there are many Indians in Jibuti, who have returned from holidays in India but are unable to re-enter Abyssinia as the Italian Consulate in Jibuti refuses the necessary permits, unless the people concerned first obtain authority from Addis Ababa. Further, this man reports that the Italian Consul at Jibuti has now allowed the return of some seven Greeks, who landed at Massawa, to proceed to Abyssinia. He concludes by saying, "The Viceroy of Abyssinia assured the Greek Consul in that country that the Abyssinian Government will cease banishing Greek people from the country".

9. Turkey.

A Turkish Jew, corresponding with a friend in Cairo, refers to the hate of the Germans that is growing in Istanbul, particularly because of their "idiotic anti-Jewish propaganda".

10. Belgian Congo.

An Italian woman writing from Costermanville on 6 Oct., describes changes in public opinion in the Belgian Congo. While at the beginning of the war Belgians were very antagonistic to the Italians, they have now changed their tone after seeing how the Allies failed to help the small states. It may be that this lady's views are somewhat biased by her own nationality.

11. Other Countries.

Attached as Appendix 'C' is an interesting report from the Deputy Chief Postal Censor on conditions in neutral countries surrounding Germany, gleaned from correspondence emanating from these countries during the month of October.

MILITARY INFORMATION.

12. Identifications.

Letters from Italian soldiers to their friends and relations in Egypt continue to give useful information concerning units and formations of the Italian army in Italy and in North Africa. Some valuable confirmation of other reports has been obtained during the period under review. An artillery officer in Tripoli confirms the arrival of his unit as a reinforcement to the troops in North Africa; and one letter, in particular, showed the writer to be a re-called reservist of a regular Divisional Artillery Regiment (the 203rd) belonging to a Blackshirt Division and disclosed his exact location.

13. Italian Air Force.

A young airman (who does not give his rank) stationed in Tripoli gives his younger brother his impressions of colonial flying. He is very enthusiastic about the safety and capabilities of his aeroplane, which he calls "C - R." He thinks he may join some detachment of the Air Force in the Sahara. These detachments

/consist



consist of small camps of three or four aeroplanes. He then details his pay and monthly allowances as follows:-

Italian Lire.

Monthly pay	830
Flying Allowance	836
Military "	(about) 134
Colonial "	341
Food "	270

2811

14. Italian Military Works.

Several letters from Greeks, dated 31 October, living in the Dodecanese Islands report that the Italians are busy constructing an aerodrome at Afiarti, on the island of Scarpando. One report says that some 150 men are working on the aerodrome, while another asserts that "fortifications" as well as the aerodrome are being constructed on the island. Also, "there are infantry and artillery numbering 500, excluding officers". A state telephone has been installed up to Voluda village. Still another letter states that the new aerodrome will be the finest in the islands, and will supersede those at Leros and Rhodes. It is expected that the authorities will utilise "forced labour" for the constructional work.

A letter, dated 20 October, from a Greek woman on the island of Symi (Dodecanese) to a fellow countrywoman in Australia describes how barbed wire entanglements are being erected on the island of Symi.

ECONOMIC WARFARE.

15. Cotton.

Germany is making increased efforts to obtain cotton supplies from Egypt. Various channels of communication are utilised, one of the principal being through the firm of Francesco Parisi in Trieste and Genoa, which firm is known to be forwarding goods to and from Germany. Other business concerns in Roumania, Bulgaria, Switzerland and Hungary keep up a continuous postal and telegraphic correspondence with various cotton exporters in Egypt and the Sudan. The Societe Hongro-Egyptienne pour la Commerce, in Budapest, and their representatives in Egypt, Polnauer & Coy., are particularly under suspicion. It is noteworthy that M. Polnauer is Consul-General for Hungary in Alexandria and therefore may be considered to have certain facilities for avoiding censorship control.

A significant fact is that an increasing number of enquiries about cotton transactions are coming from Tallinn. It is probable that since Esthonia has been obliged to give way to U.S.S.R. pressure Germany may be seeking to develop that route as a means of furnishing herself with some of her necessary imports.

Referring to cotton, one of the members of the Pinto cotton firm in Alexandria, writing from Lausanne on 19th October to his brother in Egypt, says, "Italy will do everything possible to remain out of the conflict and thinks of doing business - not only with France, but on a large scale. A grave fact, which is not known, is that England has stopped four steamers (two Italian) at Gibraltar because they were carrying cotton. The cotton brokers

/arc



are in an uproar and on Tuesday they went to Rome.....Let us hope that our friends will not be foolish and force us, through lack of 'savoir faire' into a war which we do not want. Italy wants to make money and if they do not let us do that they will have us also on their backs."

16. Oil.

The Italian shipping firm "Adriatica" writing from their head office at Trieste, on 17th October to their Alexandria agency, complain that their instructions for re-fueling the "Marco Polo", and others of their ships, are not carried out. They insist that these ships must be re-fueled with the maximum quantity of fuel oil whenever they call at Alexandria. This is obviously one of the many ways by which Italy hopes to maintain her oil stocks in Italy.

17. Trading with the Enemy.

Telegraphing from Budapest in November the firm Cable Works Ltd. inquire whether Worms & Co. of Port Said can transport rubber to Bratislava via Yugoslavian or Italian harbours. This savours very much of trading with the enemy and the cable was accordingly suppressed.

A forwarding agent in Germany writes, on 21st October, giving details of various consignments lying at Trieste and awaiting shipment to Egypt, also of other consignments awaiting despatch from Germany. All goods mentioned are for the firm of Sadnaoui in Egypt and are to be forwarded through Parisi of Trieste. The forwarding agent maintains that he is in complete ignorance as to whether German goods may enter Egypt or not. Germany wishes exports to be maintained by every possible means, but only on conditions that all goods are paid for in foreign currency before shipment from Trieste.

EVASIONS OF CENSORSHIP.

18. Particular attention is being paid at ports in Egypt to the evasion of censorship by passengers and crews of ships in port, also to other channels by which written information may be conveyed out of the country other than by post. It was found, at the end of October, that a package sent by Simon Artz in Port Said to a customer in Aden contained a film testing apparatus in which was a piece of film as a "sample" to test the machine. This sample piece of film shows ships either in convoy or at anchor at what appears to be Gibraltar.

HOSTILE ARAB AGENTS.

19. Writing from an address in Switzerland on 26 October, 1939, the notorious pro-German Druze agitator, Shekib Arslan sends a letter to Magdi Nassif, secretary to the Rector of the Egyptian University in Cairo. In his letter (Appendix "D") Shekib Arslan refers to negotiations about armies being withdrawn from frontiers. These "negotiations" may have had something to do with recent reports in the press that Egypt and Italy had come to an agreement to reduce their respective forces in the vicinity of the Egyptian-Libyan frontier. Shekib Arslan mentions two other "matters" which he is "working on". As the original letter was released by the censor it will be interesting to see what Nassif, if his reply can be intercepted, has to say about them. It is obvious from another passage in Arslan's letter that Nassif is hoping to be engaged "for important work" on the same kind of activities as those that

/Shekib



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Shekib Arslan engages in. It will also be noted that the strict censorship carried out in Egypt seems to cause dismay in some quarters. Other letters from Germany and neutral countries repeatedly complain about the strict censorship to which mails are subjected in Egypt.

Mazhar el Shawi, a native of Iraq, writes a long letter (Appendix "E") from Medina to Younis Bahari, the notorious Iraqi who broadcasts in Arabic from Berlin. The letter includes fulminations against the British and against Nuri Said Pasha, Prime Minister of Iraq, who is described as "the servant of the English". It also discusses Arab co-operation with Germany against British interests in the Middle East and India. It is believed that when Mazhar el Shawi arrived in Medina the Governor of that city was instructed not to allow him (Mazhar) to use the diplomatic bag for his correspondence. He was to send his letters through the ordinary mail.

Another Arab, writing under the name of Dr. Mahmud Saleh, and described as a journalist with an address at P.O.Box 244, Hamburg, issued a pamphlet from Germany, which contains a virulent attack on Britain and appeals to the Egyptians to get rid of their enemies, the British. A number of these pamphlets was sent to Sheikh Abdulla al Marru al Najdi in the Hedjaz, the package being marked "In transit via Italy". No doubt many copies of this propaganda pamphlet - which, while blaming the British for all the troubles of the Egyptians, points out that, "Germany has never occupied Egypt, nor any Arab country" - will come to light in Egypt and other neighbouring countries. The pamphlet bears the title, "Egypt in the Political World".

MISCELLANEOUS.

20. The following is an extract from a letter from Nairobi to a British soldier in Egypt :-

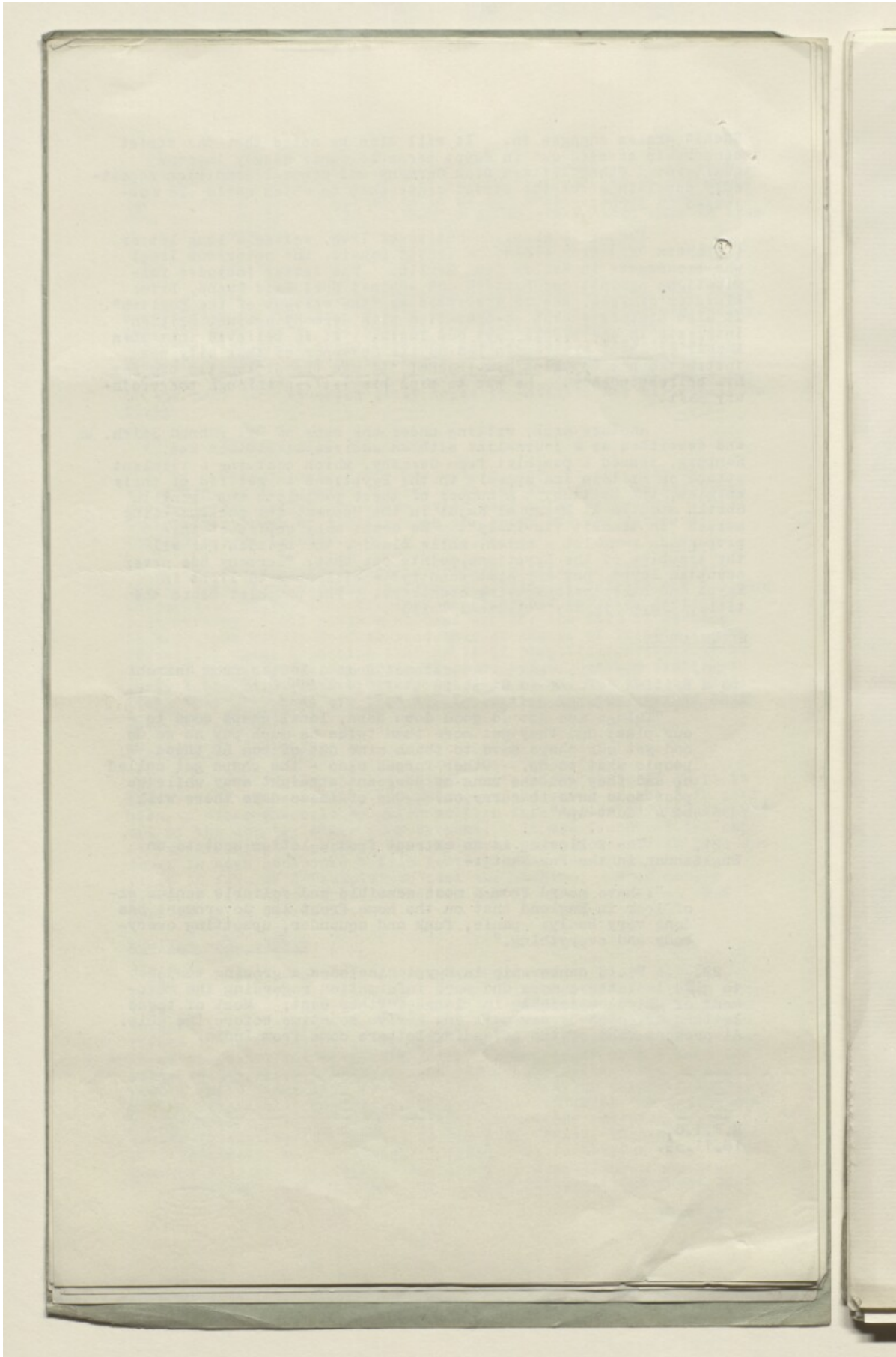
"Things are not so good down here, local chaps come to our place and they get more than twice as much pay as we do and yet our chaps have to teach nine out of ten of these people what to do. Other forces also - the chaps get called up and they get the rank of sergeant straight away while we poor sods have to carry on. One of these days there will be a 'dust-up'!"

21. The following is an extract from a letter sent to an Englishman in the Far East :-

"I have heard from a most sensible and reliable senior ex-officer in England that on the home front the Government has done very badly: panic, funk and squander, upsetting everybody and everything."

22. Field censorship in Egypt discloses a growing tendency to give in letters more and more information regarding the movement of ships especially in places further east. Most of these letters are sent by air mail and arrive sometime before the ship. At present most of the offending letters come from India.

M.E.I.C.
18.11.39.





APPENDIX A.

Language: French.
From: Dr. Heim - Occulist, Romanshorn, Switzerland.
To: Mdlle. Hanni Heim (his daughter) Home International
Alexandria.
Dated: 12.10.39.

Dear Hanni,

.....
As for the war, one cannot be a prophet! Germany does not want war but peace to regain force to continue later the realisation of her dream - to dominate Europe and the world.

France and Great Britain want to stop these realisations by war - only method up to the present. The situation has been changed by the Russo-German pact. The position of the Western Powers has become more difficult. This pact was made to frighten the Allies. Hitler could not turn to the French and English and tell them "Be frightened of Stalin!" That would have had no effect. Therefore he let Stalin take part of Poland, dominate the Baltic States and the Ostsee, and establish Bolshevism in the conquered countries. Now France and England see Bolshevism in action and progressing. Hitler has no need to say "Do you see the danger?" The danger shows itself plainly. The Italian press would say "English and French do you see this terrible danger? You will have to fight two mighty Powers. Better make peace with Hitler who is no longer dangerous as he does not want war with France and England."

Perhaps when France and England agree to make peace with Hitler, the latter will go against Stalin, drive back Bolshevism and conquer part of Russia. For Hitler does not keep his word. This friendship with Russia is not sincere, and when Germany does not have to fight France and England, she will be strong enough - militarily - to fight against Russia. The French and English should fear Russia much more than Germany. But happily France and England will not be taken in this time as they were on several previous occasions.

There is no danger of Bolshevism spreading further. This danger is less to be feared than Nazism. It is to be hoped that the Western Powers will resist, defend themselves and leave Hitler to attack. They can wait long on the defensive. Hitler is obliged to act.

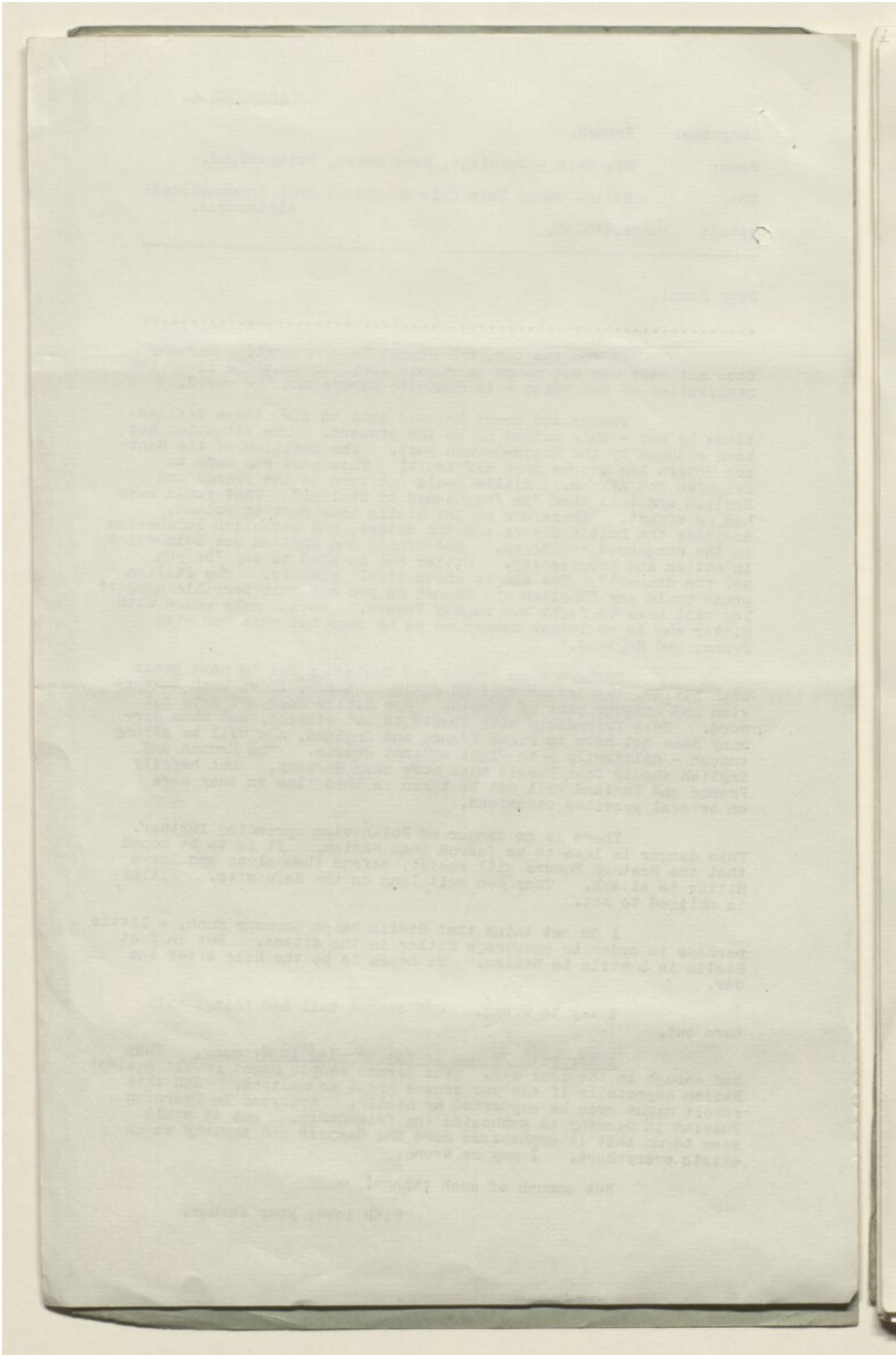
I do not think that Stalin helps Germany much, a little perhaps in order to encourage Hitler in the attack. But in fact Stalin is hostile to Nazism. He hopes to be the heir after the war.

I may be wrong. One cannot tell how things will turn out.

A war with France is not popular in Germany. They had enough in the last war. The German people might revolt against Nazism especially if the war causes great casualties. And this revolt might even be supported by Stalin. Everyone is learning Russian in Germany to emphasise the friendship. But it would seem to me that it emphasises more the despair and anxiety which exists everywhere. I may be wrong.

But enough of such things!

With love, your father.





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APPENDIX B

TRANSLATION.

From: Letter signed ANDREAS, envelope printed KUNST & ALBERS,
Canton.

To: Frau Meyer-Mader, c/o Verwaltungsdirektor KLEIN,
Wilhelmshaven, Room No. 3.

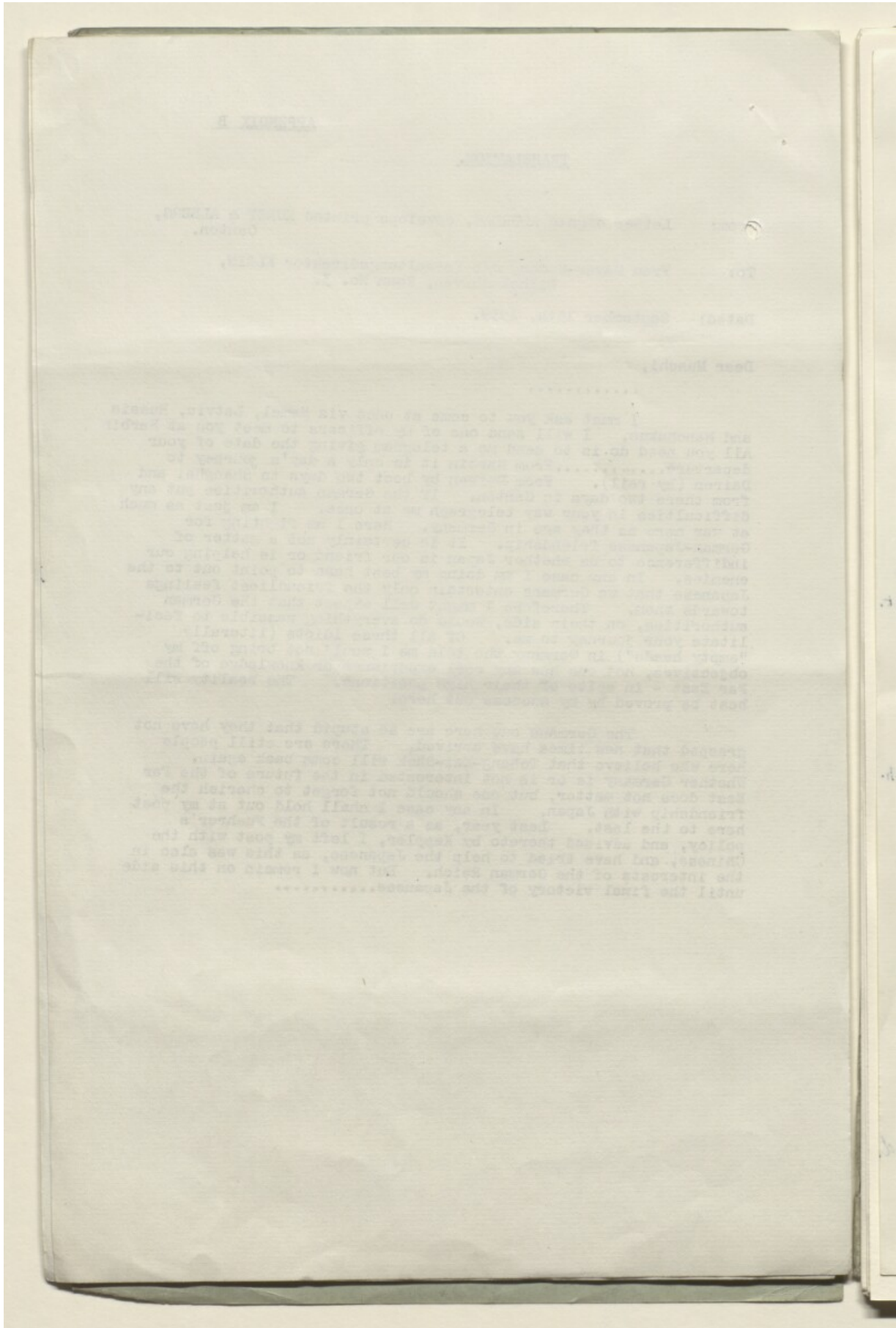
Dated: September 15th, 1939.

Dear Muschi,

.....

I must ask you to come at once via Memel, Latvia, Russia and Manchukuo. I will send one of my officers to meet you at Harbin. All you need do is to send me a telegram giving the date of your departure.....From Harbin it is only a day's journey to Dairen (by rail). From Dairen by boat two days to Shanghai and from there two days to Canton. If the German authorities put any difficulties in your way telegraph me at once. I am just as much at war here as they are in Germany. Here I am fighting for German-Japanese friendship. It is certainly not a matter of indifference to us whether Japan is our friend or is helping our enemies. In any case I am doing my best here to point out to the Japanese that we Germans entertain only the friendliest feelings towards them. Therefore I might well expect that the German authorities, on their side, would do everything possible to facilitate your journey to me. Of all these idiots (literally "empty heads") in Germany who told me I would not bring off my objectives, not one has any real experience or knowledge of the Far East - in spite of their high positions. The reality will best be proved by my success out here.

The Germans out here are so stupid that they have not grasped that new times have arrived. There are still people here who believe that Tchang-Kai-Shek will come back again. Whether Germany is or is not interested in the future of the Far East does not matter, but one should not forget to cherish the friendship with Japan. In any case I shall hold out at my post here to the last. Last year, as a result of the Fuehrer's policy, and advised thereto by Keppler, I left my post with the Chinese, and have tried to help the Japanese, as this was also in the interests of the German Reich. But now I remain on this side until the final victory of the Japanese.....





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APPENDIX 'C'

M.E.I.C.

The incoming mails are dealt with at the G.P.O. by a team of Examiners who are required to report daily on the general trend of opinion in various neutral countries as disclosed by the normal correspondence passing through their hands each day. The following report covers the mails generally for the month of October.

The mails from Greece are very heavy and there being a statistical quantity of mail there is a sound basis for the statements given below.

There is a fair amount of mail from Turkey, but the quantity from smaller countries is not great, although more considerable than might be assumed. In these cases therefore, it cannot be said that the quantity is large enough to form a statistical basis but on the other hand the writers from these countries are in general, people of more substance than the average Greek or Italian correspondent, and consequently are expressing the opinion of the middle class engaged in business or of the relatives of such persons.

GREECE.

Public Opinion.

Fully 75% of Greek public opinion as revealed by this mail is pro-Ally and hostile to Germany. Some anti-Fascist feeling is shown, particularly against Mussolini personally. There is less anxiety as to the immediate future and the Italo-Greek agreement gives rise to the hope that Greece will be able to remain neutral. The belief is frequently expressed, that the country will have little to fear, so long as Greece has the moral support of the British Government.

Economic.

There is a general rise in the cost of living and complaints of extreme poverty in villages. There are now three meatless days per week in Greece. Rice and sugar are difficult to obtain; The latter is rationed and in some of the islands is unobtainable.

Business is generally reported as bad and commerce heavily hit by the war. This is accentuated by the insistence of Greek banks on the opening of credit in Greece for all goods exported and the necessity for obtaining export licences. Early letters reported that the export of tobacco to Germany had ceased but the letters dated 13th October reported conclusion of a special tobacco agreement with Germany under the clearing system. There are other evidences of cooperation with German trade interests. The number of letters to and from Germany transmitted through accommodation addresses in Greece shows a marked increase. A number of Greek firms are offering to supply goods of German manufacture. There have been enquiries for large quantities of commodities, e.g.: 10,000 sacks of coffee, 2,000 tons of beans, 1,500 tons of sugar and 90,000 tons of rice. Such large quantities seem in excess of Greek requirements and it is noted that much of this merchandise is required for shipment to Salonika, whereas goods destined for Greece are normally shipped to the Piraeus. The Government has formed a Union of importers with headquarters at Piraeus to control imports of all rice and cereals.

/Military.



Military.

The demobilisation of certain classes has been announced but no date has yet been fixed.

SWITZERLAND.

Public Opinion.

Much anxiety is revealed in this mail. There is a general fear of Germany but some writers say that neither side can be trusted to respect Swiss neutrality in an emergency. Italy is not viewed in a very friendly light. There is marked hostility to Nazism, so much so that some German Swiss now prefer to call themselves Suisses Allemaniques, instead of Suisses Allemands as formerly. Many letters say that Hitler's word is utterly untrustworthy and there are scathing references to him in nearly all private letters. Some Swiss fear that the fate of their country may be that of Poland, but they express determination to defend their country against all attack and the majority of writers express confidence in the final victory of the Allies.

Economic.

There are complaints of diminution in trade owing to shortage of staff through mobilization, shortage of raw materials and rise of the Swiss exchange. This has led to an increase of unemployment.

Flour, sugar, butter are rationed and retail prices are estimated to have risen from 15 - 20%. White bread is difficult to obtain and black is generally eaten.

Benzine is strictly rationed and almost unobtainable for private use.

Military.

Swiss forces are concentrated on the frontiers at war strength.

BELGIUM.

Public Opinion.

Public opinion in Belgium appears generally favourable to the Allies. Writers hope that Belgium will be able to keep out of the war but there is little confidence in this. Very few comments as to the merits of the Allied cause but much anti-Nazi feeling. There is general support for the policy of the King, and a neutrality benevolent to the Allies is generally hoped for. Hitler's speech in the Reichstag is described as full of misrepresentations and arrogance. One letter reports that Belgium is infested with spies and several people express fear that the war may last five years.

Economic.

There are complaints of shortage of raw materials with resultant delay in delivery. Production is restricted by mobilization. Belgian firms refuse to accept payment in confirmed sterling and most demand irrevocable credit in Belgian francs. All credit in the export trade is stopped. Several Belgian firms attempt to find markets for German goods either openly or disguised as Belgian manufactures. The Government has prohibited the export

/of



of cotton, jute or rubber. Prices for hard ware, ironmongery, and glass ware are up by 25% for export trade.

Military.

Mobilization appears to be almost general and there are frequent references to fortifications along the German frontier but no mention of this on the French side.

TURKEY.

Great confidence expressed in final victory of Allies. Much anti-German feeling. Arrival of many Polish refugees stimulated anti-German feeling. Hopes that Turkey will remain neutral but general confidence in her ability to defend herself. Some apprehension as to Russian designs on Constantinople.

A letter from Smyrna states that the town has become a fortress. In the event of hostilities the whole civil population would be evacuated to the Interior. Only Italian and Roumanian ships are now serving Turkish ports, resulting in stagnation of export trade. Most of the correspondence from Turkey comes from Christian and Jewish writers.

HOLLAND.

Dutch commerce suffering as the Dutch export trade handled many goods of German manufacture. Practically no expressions of opinion in the earlier dated mail, but later letters evince considerable anxiety as to future developments in Holland, and some consider the position of the country as precarious.

Export of tin, superphosphate, paper, cheese and cocoa butter is prohibited.

ROUMANIA.

Reports of military preparations on the Russian-Roumanian frontier. Some anxiety as to a possible Russian invasion and at the influx of thousands of Polish refugees. No opinions as to either Allies or Germany, interest being local only.

ALBANIA.

Albanians continue to resent Italian occupation and the export of food stuffs to Italy.

Mention of large concentrations of Italian troops at Pogradec (this is a town on Lake Ohrida which separates part of Yugoslavia from Albania.)

It is my opinion that as all the countries reported upon have no Censorship in operation (other than the Exchange Control Censorship in Greece) opinion expressed in letters is likely to be a better index than the press. Correspondents let themselves go, whereas in most countries today the press is either controlled or guided into defined channels, or chary of expressing downright opinions as is the habit of the average letter-writer.

(Signed) DE LA MARE,
Major.
Deputy Chief Postal Censor.



APPENDIX 'D'.

From: SHEKIB ARSLAN, 11 RUE MARIIGNAC, GENEVE, SUISSE.
To: M. MAGDI NASSIF, 68 SHARIE EL KASR EL EINI, FLAT 60,
CAIRO.
Dated: 26.10.39

This letter was posted in Switzerland. The following
is what he says:-

"I went to Berlin to get the income of my house, and arrived there at the time when Poland had been wiped out. The Germans smashed the Polish Army of a million men in 18 days. The French may say what they like, but they did not evacuate the Saar Zone of their own free will but in fact were driven out. On my return to Geneva I found your letter dated 21st September. Of course you had been awaiting my reply but I stopped writing to all so that I could keep them quiet for a while, and because I did not get a reply to my letters which I posted through the Legation in Berne. I have succeeded satisfactorily in settling the matter. They have now done as they promised and I understand have withdrawn their armies posted on the frontiers. Whatever they may have done I am now quite satisfied that I succeeded in my negotiations which brought about this result. I am now working on the second matter, and I have great hopes of success in spite of the obstacles facing me. I wrote and cabled through the Legation but as I got no reply I thought my interference was undesirable. I do not want to cause them any inconvenience. Had they replied I should have gone through the work and left.

The third question I want to mention, I received a letter signed by one of the high officials which I have now. During my stay in Germany I discussed the matter, and it came to my knowledge that as Egypt has interned 130 people, they were compelled to do the same with the Egyptians. Why is Egypt doing this? Is it to satisfy her Allies. Rumours were spread about regarding the Censorship, they say it is very strong and ask why it is in the hands of the British. Egypt may execute the Treaty but this does not permit the work to be kept out of her hands."

The writer ends by saying "as to my making mention of my belief in your great capacity and merits and suitability for important work, I assure that I shall not fail to record my views when the opportunity arises, so far the occasion has been lacking."



Appendix E

(12)

Translation

From: Mazher El Shawi, Medina.

To: Younis Bey Bahari, The Arabic Speaker, German
Broadcasting Station, F.O.L.103, Berlin, W.I.

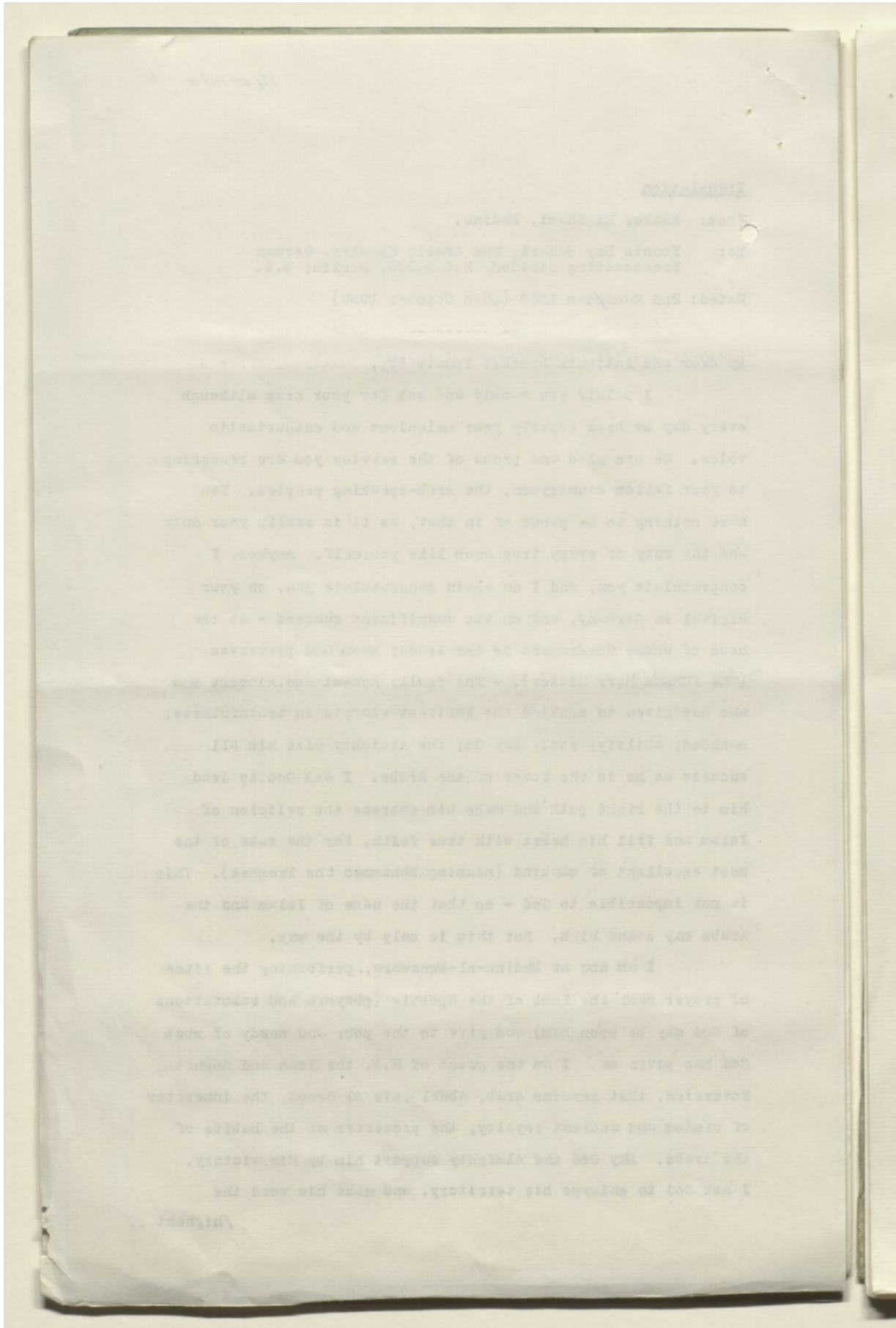
Dated: 2nd Ramadan 1358 (15th October 1939)

My dear and intimate brother Younis Bey,

I salute you warmly and ask for your news although every day we hear eagerly your melodious and enthusiastic voice. We are glad and proud of the service you are rendering to your fellow countrymen, the Arab-speaking peoples. You have nothing to be proud of in that, as it is really your duty and the duty of every true Arab like yourself. Anyhow, I congratulate you, and I do again congratulate you, on your arrival in Germany, and on its magnificent success - at the head of whose Government is the leader whom God preserves (The FUHRER Herr Hitler). - The really honest and sincere man who has given to mankind the loftiest example in truthfulness, manhood, ability, etc. May God the Almighty give him all success as he is the lover of the Arabs. I ask God to lead him to the right path and make him embrace the religion of Islam and fill his heart with true faith, for the sake of the most excellent of mankind (meaning Mohammed the Prophet). This is not impossible to God - so that the name of Islam and the Arabs may stand high. But this is only by the way.

I am now at Medina-el-Menawara, performing the rites of prayer near the Tomb of the Apostle (prayers and salutations of God may be upon him) and give to the poor and needy of what God has given me. I am the guest of H.M. the Imam and August Sovereign, that genuine Arab, Abdel Aziz Al Seoud, the inheritor of wisdom and ancient royalty, the preserver of the habits of the Arabs. May God the Almighty support him by His victory. I ask God to enlarge his territory, and make his word the

/highest ..





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highest over all the Arabic-speaking nations, and may the unity of their word be in his mind, as he is worthy of this. I have no doubt my friend agrees with me that the whole Arabic world is in the greatest need of this.

I have with me 12 men of my tribe, to serve me. I also have 3 drivers, for I have a lorry to carry my effects, as well as two cars - all belonging to me. I left the land of my fathers and forefathers all of a sudden for obligatory and sudden reasons connected with the activity of Noury Said, servant of the English. His actions are despotic towards me and my relations - inhabitants of the desert. He is capricious and enforces the laws just as he likes. This is treachery, no doubt. Even in the old times of the Turks no such despotic treatment took place against any person. Long live Democracy!

You know that Ogeil the Yawer (A.D.C.) is a servant of the English, and that he came to the fore and won prominence in the days of the English who have aims to realise through him. May God frustrate their hopes everywhere and in all they aim at. Noury meant to strike at me in violation of his own conscience, just to please the English and Ogeil, their servant. By coming into office this session, he struck many on this account, including Aly El-Nasseer and his brother Semir (?) whom he condemned to 5 years (?). By the mercy of God he could not get at me, and however sly and deceitful the methods he uses, all are in vain, for, as you know, my prestige is not like the others!

We left Iraq in the afternoon of the 27th (?) 1939 from Youssofiya with full armament and reached the Scoudi frontiers. When we saw the good habits still observed in these places, we became joyful and forgot the fatigue of the journey, and almost forgot the deeds of Noury, servant of the English, as says my brother Younis when he broadcasts Barbarous deeds. I have a man with me, one of the sons of the true and zealous patriot,

/Sheikh ..



highest over all the Arab-speaking nations, and say the only
their word be in his hand, as he is worthy of this. I have
no doubt my friend speaks with you, and these words would
be in the interest of the...
I have with me in my hand, to give me...
also have a copy, for I have a copy of the...
as well as two more - all belonging to me. I left the book of
my father and brother-in-law of a sudden for obligatory and
certain reasons connected with the activity of Henry Galt, a friend
of the English. His actions are desperate towards me and my
relations - independence of the desert. He is a spy and
enforces the law just as he likes. This is a tragedy, no doubt.
Even in the case of the Galt, he has a special treatment
look place against my friend. I am a Jew (Jewish).
You know that Galt (Jew) is a spy.
of the English, and that he came to the fore and his
in the case of the English and have him to watch through him.
My God, I wish their paper everywhere and in all they can do.
Henry wants to enter as he is a violation of his own conscience.
Just to please the English and Galt, their spy, by coming
into office this session, he enters my name on this account.
Including my brother-in-law and his brother Galt (?) when he con-
demned to 5 years (?). By the way, of God he could not get
at me, and however my and Galt's the methods he uses, all
are in vain, for, as you know, my practice is not like the others.
We left Trip in the afternoon of the 15th (?) 1932
from Alexandria with full baggage and reached the hotel Tripoli
when we saw the good habits still observed in those places, we
found joyful and happy the twilight of the journey, and almost
forgot the trade of Henry, a friend of the English, as says my
brother-in-law when he introduced his name. I have a
man with me, one of the sons of the true and serious Galt,
Galt...

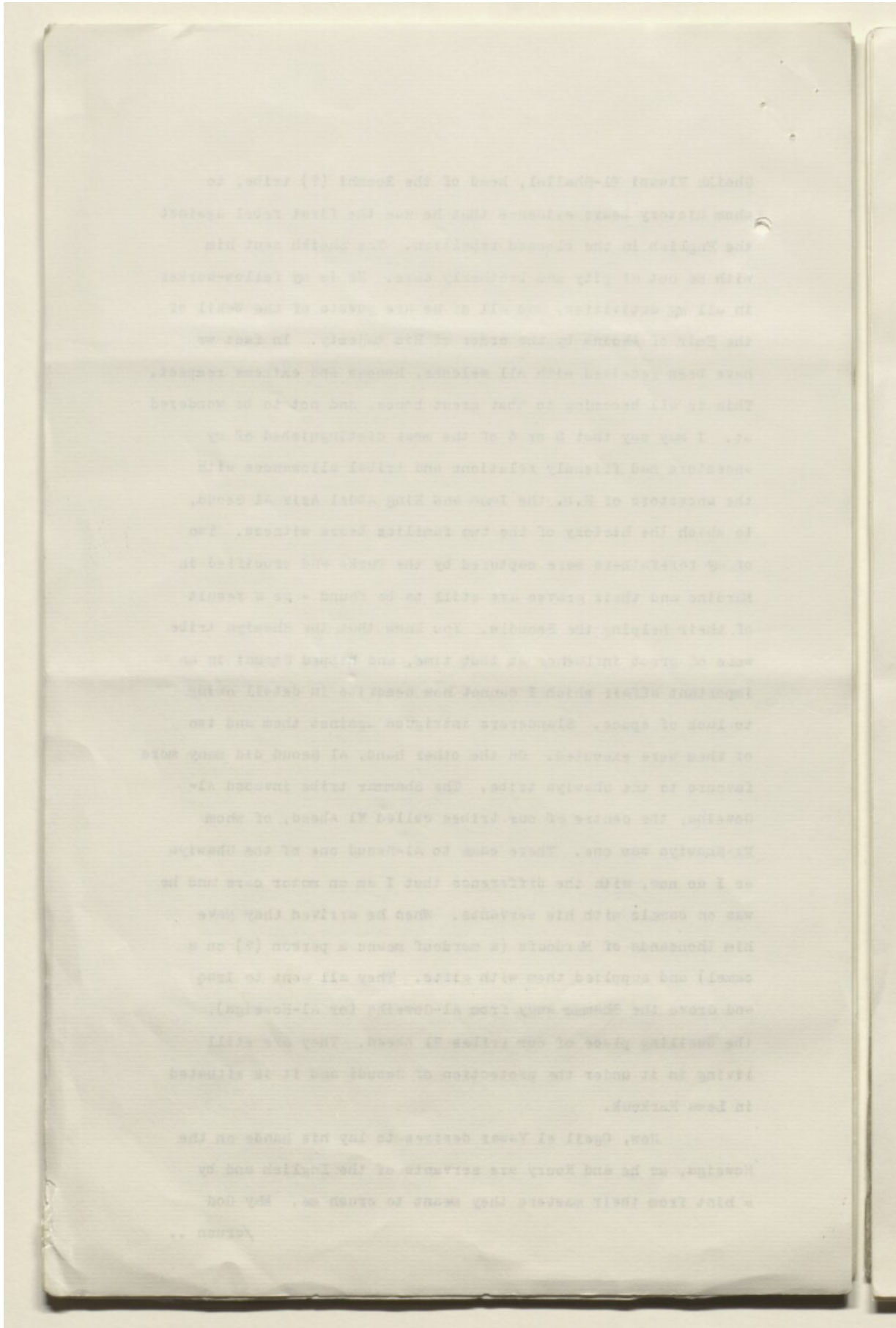


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Sheikh Elwani El-Shallal, head of the Boomhi (?) tribe, to whom history bears evidence that he was the first rebel against the English in the blessed rebellion. The Sheikh sent him with me out of pity and brotherly care. He is my fellow-worker in all my activities, and all of us are guests of the Wekil of the Emir of Medina by the order of His Majesty. In fact we have been received with all welcome, honour and extreme respect. This is all becoming to that great house, and not to be wondered at. I may say that 5 or 6 of the most distinguished of my ancestors had friendly relations and tribal allowances with the ancestors of H.M. the Imam and King Abdel Aziz Al Secoud, to which the history of the two families bears witness. Two of my forefathers were captured by the Turks and crucified in Mardine and their graves are still to be found - as a result of their helping the Secudis. You know that the Shawiya tribe were of great influence at that time, and helped Secudi in an important affair which I cannot now describe in detail owing to lack of space. Slanderers intrigued against them and two of them were executed. On the other hand, Al Secoud did many more favours to the Shawiya tribe. The Shammar tribe invaded Al-Goweiha, the centre of our tribes called El Abeed, of whom El-Shawiya was one. There came to Al-Secoud one of the Shawiya as I do now, with the difference that I am on motor cars and he was on camels with his servants. When he arrived they gave him thousands of Mardoufs (a mardouf means a person (?) on a camel) and supplied them with gifts. They all went to Iraq and drove the Shammar away from Al-Goweiha (or Al-Howeiga), the dwelling place of our tribes El Abeed. They are still living in it under the protection of Secudi and it is situated in Lewa Karkouk.

Now, Ogeil el Yawer desires to lay his hands on the Howeiga, as he and Noury are servants of the English and by a hint from their masters they meant to crush me. May God

/crush ..

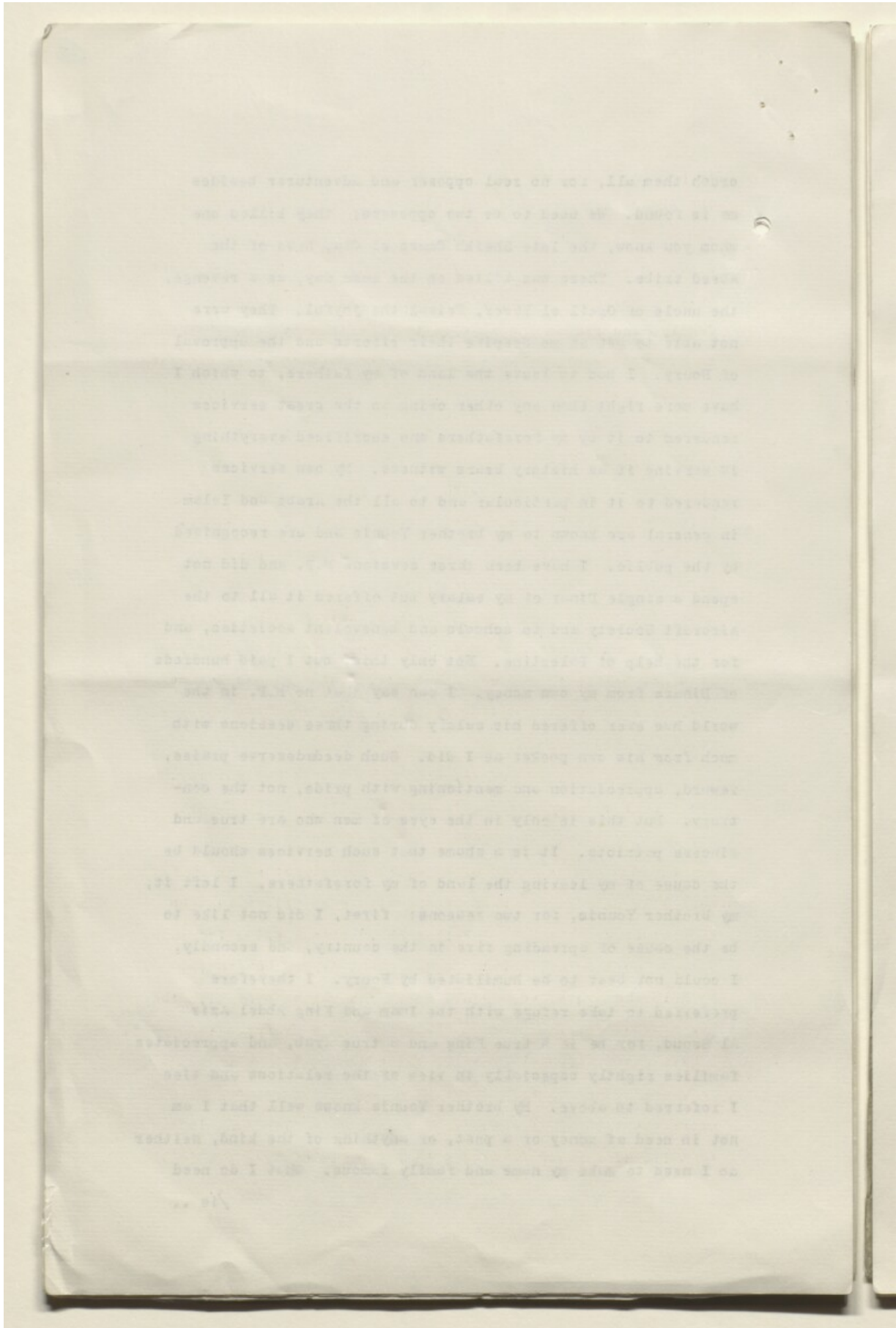




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crush them all, for no real opposer and adventurer besides me is found. We used to be two opposers; they killed one whom you know, the late Sheikh Omass el Ola, head of the Abeed tribe. There was killed on the same day, as a revenge, the uncle of Ogeil el Yewer, Feisal the joyful. They were not able to get at me despite their efforts and the approval of Noury. I had to leave the land of my fathers, to which I have more right than any other owing to the great services rendered to it by my forefathers who sacrificed everything in serving it as history bears witness. My own services rendered to it in particular and to all the Arabs and Islam in general are known to my brother Younis and are recognised by the public. I have been three sessions M.P. and did not spend a single Dinar of my salary but offered it all to the Aircraft Society and to schools and benevolent societies, and for the help of Palestine. Not only this, but I paid hundreds of Dinars from my own money. I can say that no M.P. in the world has ever offered his salary during three sessions with much from his own pocket as I did. Such deeds deserve praise, reward, appreciation and mentioning with pride, not the contrary. But this is only in the eyes of men who are true and sincere patriots. It is a shame that such services should be the cause of my leaving the land of my forefathers. I left it, my brother Younis, for two reasons: first, I did not like to be the cause of spreading fire in the country, and secondly, I could not bear to be humiliated by Noury. I therefore preferred to take refuge with the Imam and King Abdel Aziz Al Secud, for he is a true King and a true Arab, and appreciates families rightly especially in view of the relations and ties I referred to above. My brother Younis knows well that I am not in need of money or a post, or anything of the kind, neither do I need to make my name and family famous. What I do need

/is ..



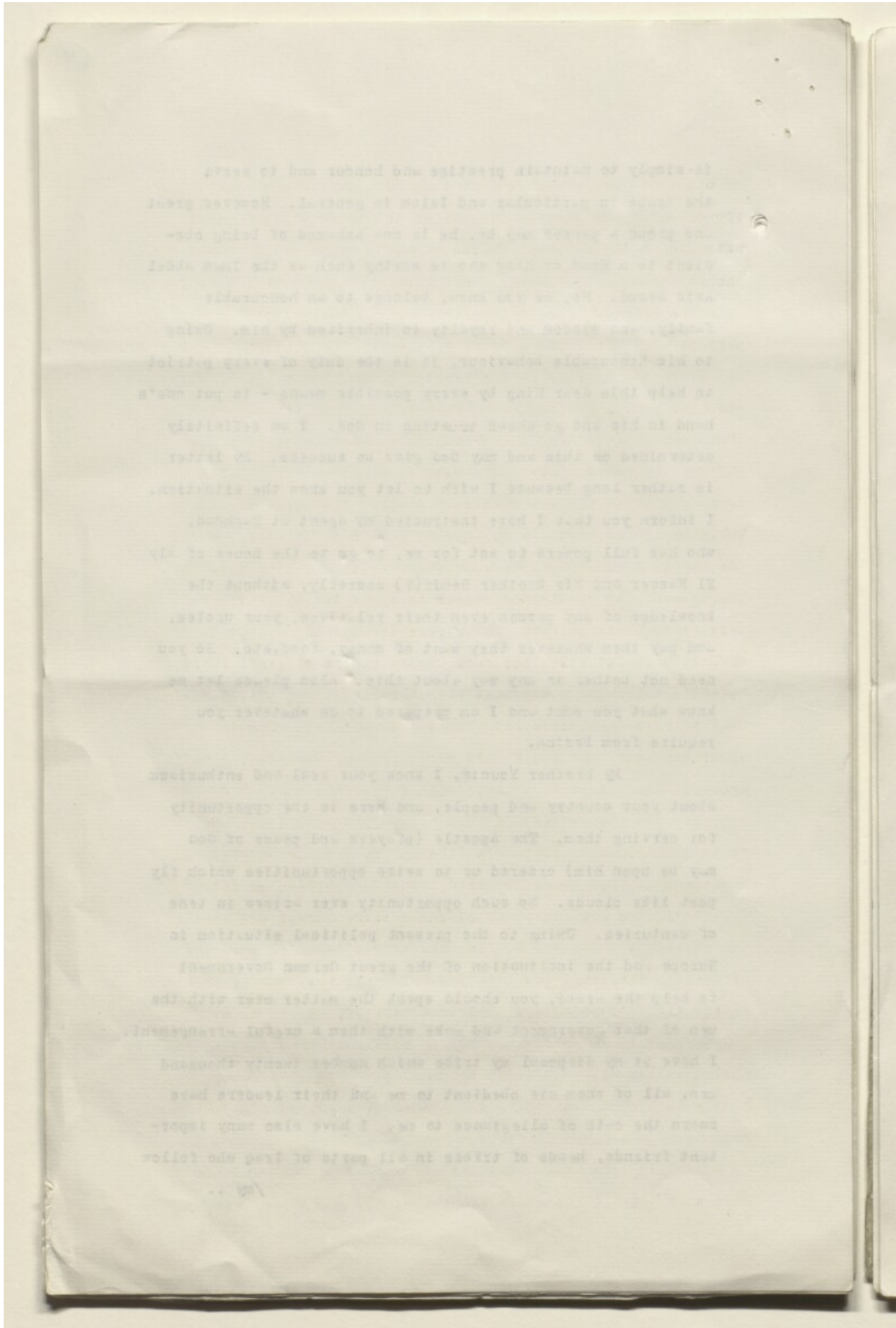


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is simply to maintain prestige and honour and to serve the Arabs in particular and Islam in general. However great and proud a person may be, he is not ashamed of being obedient to a Head or King who is worthy such as the Imam Abdel Aziz Secud. He, as you know, belongs to an honourable family, and wisdom and royalty is inherited by him. Owing to his honourable behaviour, it is the duty of every patriot to help this dear King by every possible means - to put one's hand in his and go ahead trusting in God. I am definitely determined on this and may God give us success. My letter is rather long because I wish to let you know the situation. I inform you that I have instructed my Agent at Baghdad, who has full powers to act for me, to go to the house of Aly El Nasser and his brother Semir(?) secretly, without the knowledge of any person even their relatives, your uncles, and pay them whatever they want of money, food, etc. So you need not bother in any way about this. Also please let me know what you want and I am prepared to do whatever you require from Medina.

My brother Younis, I know your zeal and enthusiasm about your country and people, and here is the opportunity for serving them. The Apostle (prayers and peace of God may be upon him) ordered us to seize opportunities which fly past like clouds. No such opportunity ever arises in tens of centuries. Owing to the present political situation in Europe and the inclination of the great German Government to help the Arabs, you should speak the matter over with the men of that Government and make with them a useful arrangement. I have at my disposal my tribe which number twenty thousand men, all of whom are obedient to me and their leaders have sworn the oath of allegiance to me. I have also many important friends, heads of tribes in all parts of Iraq who follow

/my ..





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my opinion. And you know that I am adventurous and powerful
(power be to God alone). So, after obtaining their approval,
write to me in detail at Medina, letting me know what way I
should follow, for they are more experienced and more acquainted
with the methods of defeating the English (word illegible,
perhaps meaning display or show up the English). The
object of our step is a true service to the Arabs and Islam
and, particularly, Iraq. You know better than anybody else
that our brothers the Iraqis are zealous and brave people,
whether the masses lawyers or Ulemas, except a cursed group,
including a few who are office-worshipers and servants of the
English. These lead a luxurious life with their wives, while
the majority of the people labour and toil and pay taxes into
the Treasury to enable the others to spend lavishly with no
service to their country. They care for nothing except to
secure their future. They have become owners of great buildings,
splendid motor cars, accounts with the Banks, and titles.
Most of them are outsiders: Turks and what not. Now is the
opportune time, and you should not allow the opportunity to
escape. I am prepared to spend all I possess, money and
property, in the service of the Arabs, Islam and Iraq. Let
me be like Abu Bakr el Soddik (though far from being like him)
who spent all his money to strengthen the religion of Islam
and sacrificed everything retaining nothing except one mantle,
though even the tethers of his horses used to be of gold and
his wealth incalculable. And you know well that I have no aim
except prestige and honour and true service, God is my witness.
You may ask to interview the F hrer personally and come to an
understanding with him about this matter. You know better than
I do what is the best thing to be done, but you must do all you
can and by all means possible.

In view of the invasion of Poland by Germany, the
Pact with Russia, the peace between Russia and Japan, etc.

/the ..



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the trend will be towards India and the road to it will necessarily be through Iran, Iraq and Afghan. Public opinion in India is eagerly expecting this. As to the Imam, King Abdel Aziz Al-Sعود, I have not yet seen him, nor have I talked to any of his Princes or to any human being at all about this matter. There is only mediation on the part of the Imam in my case, and you must be sure that I shall not make a single movement until I receive a detailed letter from you about the whole matter and everything else; and I am patiently waiting for your answer.

My dear Younis,

If my letter reaches you in Ramadan, you may try to change the time of your broadcasting as it coincides with the evening prayers and the Moslems are eager to hear you and are torn between the two alternatives. It usually takes place at 1.30 hrs. (Arabia).

There is at Medina a man, an intimate friend of mine and an obliging person, named Sayed Aly El-Sayed Amran Huboubi, a well known merchant, born in Medina. He asked me repeatedly to convey his greetings to you.

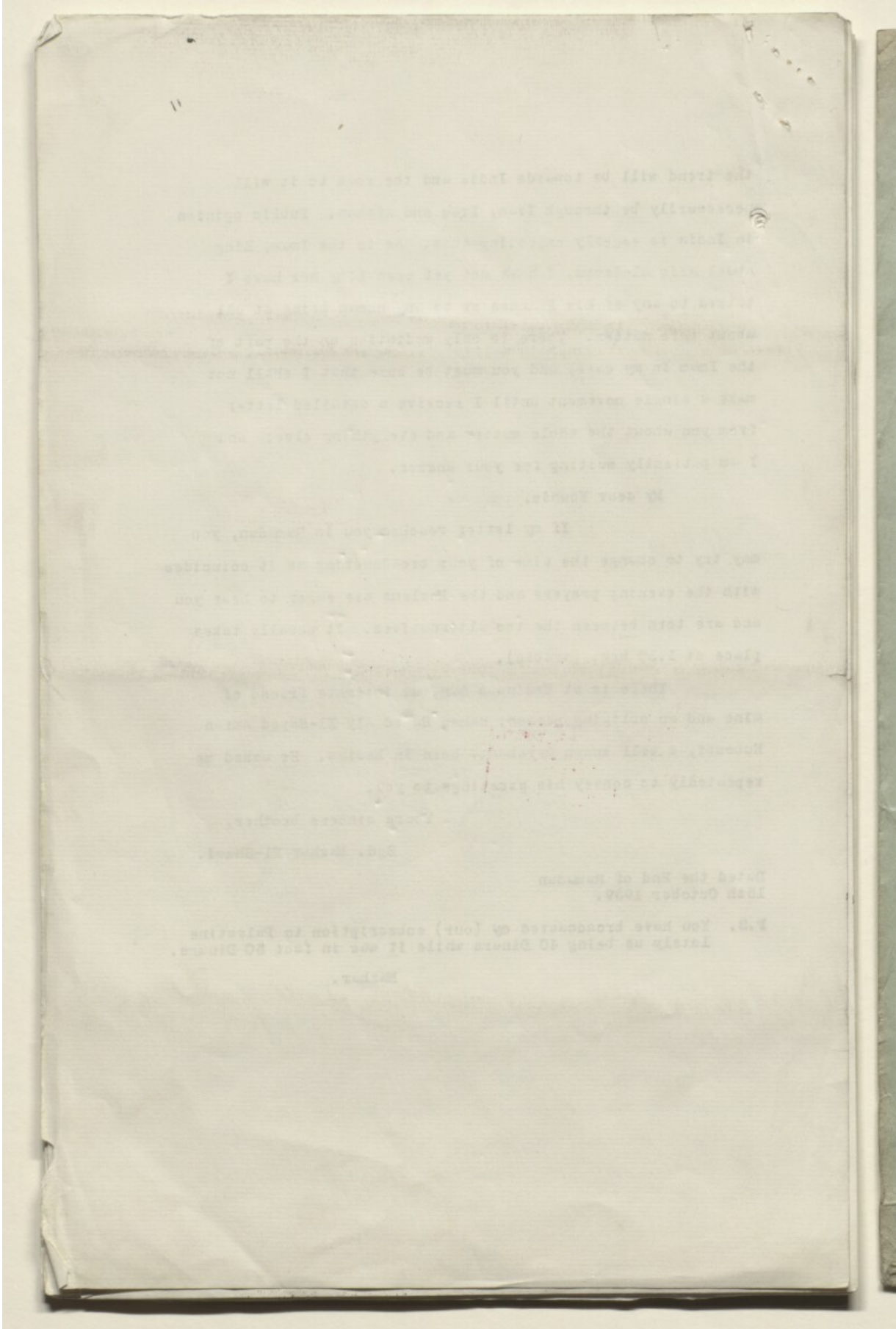
Yours sincere brother,

Sgd. Mazhar El-Shawi.

Dated the 2nd of Ramadan
15th October 1939.

P.S. You have broadcasted my (our) subscription to Palestine lately as being 40 Dinars while it was in fact 50 Dinars.

Mazhar.





Previous File.
P.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL) DEPARTMENT.

P.Z. 4640/28
1933

SUBJECT:

This File contains the following papers:—

YEAR.	P.Z.	122.	1249.	1448.	1729.	2016.	2097.	2459.	2592.	2674.
1933	P.Z.	3214	3227	3451	3474.	6116.	6126.	6479.	6676.	7576. 8354.
1934	P.Z.	225.	1186.	2430.	2458.	2705.	2824.	2919.	3257.	3611.
1934	P.Z.	4095.	4640.	4683.	4730.	5587.	5931.	6739.		
1935	P.Z.	1646.								
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