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President's Secretary's File

Subject File

Carter, John F.: Mar-May 1942

Box 98

Far East

Walker

*file
journal*

BSF Jack Carter Fold

May 28, 1942

This report is based on information and opinion secured from the wife of Seifullah Khandan, who arrived in the Lisbon Clipper on Wednesday evening after an eight day flight from Bagdad, Iraq. Her husband is en route to Washington, D. C., where he will be Charge d Affairs for Irak. Because she was talking with close friends from the Near East your reporter feels that this report is particularly important at this time as she is recognized in Bagdad and other near East Cities as a brilliant diplomat and the real power behind her husband who is a Kurd. Important points made were;

1. The Turks will fight hard if they are attacked through Thrace but will put up little if any resistance if the Nazis are successful in their efforts to break through into Iran and Syria through the Caucasus.
2. All of the Near East is now like a keg of dynamite because the Germans have twisted President Roosevelt's recent speech about Palestine as final proof that the United Nations will give the Jews of all nations, but especially in the Near East great preference over all Moslem races. This has swung the Moslems over from a tentative pro-British and pro-United States position to one of violent opposition although so far they do not trust the Germans any too greatly.
3. A successful break through by Germans into Iran, Irak and Syria would be the signal for wholesale slaughter of Christian and Jew alike and there would be supporting guerrilla warfare during the campaign in the countries mentioned.
4. Diplomats in Bagdad express the opinion that if the Russians are able to repulse the Nazis before they penetrate the Caucasus the war will end before the end of this year as there is no food left in Europe and especially the Europe upon which Hitler's forces are now dependent.
5. Mrs. Khandan was told in Cairo by the British that they expected a heavy attack by Rommel in the Libyan desert as a preliminary to intensified efforts by the main German forces to break through the Caucasus Mountains.

This woman is a niece of the Bishop of Austria and knows well and has the confidence of the Irakian Minister of State (Prime Minister and Mr. Cornwallis, the British Ambassador to Irak.

She is reported by our New York contacts to have been the real reason for her husband's political successes and is very highly regarded by them.

Pancheha, who gave us our original report on Russian resistance against the Nazis expresses the opinion that the Russians may collapse in the Caucasus area and that then it will be up to the British to hold the Germans.

May 29, 1942

Mrs. Seifullah Khandan, wife of New Irakian Charge d'Affairs in Washington, reports on her arrival by clipper that Near East is "like a dynamite keg", because Germans have twisted President Roosevelt's recent statements on Palestine to convince Arab populations of United Nations' determination to give preferential treatment to Jews. Says Rommel's drive is believed by British to be diversion move preparatory to German push through Caucasus and that while Turks are expected to fight if invaded through thrase will remain apathetic thwards a Caucasus drive.

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REPORT FROM THE REICH

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