Documents submitted to V.M. Molotov

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

24.05. (1952) [[1]](#footnote-1) For information

Short Summary

Zorin Presents the note “The USA, Britain and France striving for stronger influence in Syria and Lebanon”. In the note it says that after the Second World War due to termination of the French mandate for Syria and Lebanon the influence of France in these countries has considerably weakened. France undertakes serious attempts to restore its influence in Syria and Lebanon. At the conference of French diplomats accredited in Arab countries recommendations to the government of France were developed on future policy in these countries. Recommendations pointed at the necessity for France to take measures to restrict British and American influence in Syria and Lebanon and to improve the economic, cultural and military cooperation of France with these countries. However, the government of France avoids open activities against American policy in the Near East.

In the post-war years Britain has improved activity aimed at influencing Syria and Lebanon by carrying out the plan to create a “Greater Syria”. This plan provides for association of Syria, Lebanon and other Arab countries to create a big Arab state headed by the Hashemite dynasty[[2]](#footnote-2) in the Near East. British activity for the creation of “Greater Syria” caused serious opposition from the USA. At the Conference of Foreign Ministers of western states in May 1950 the USA and France insisted that the issue of preserving the status quo in the Near East was included in the “tripartite declaration”.

Having achieved consolidation of their positions in Syria and Lebanon, the Americans decided to refuse the policy of status quo preservation in the Near East and tried to adopt the idea of creating a “Greater Syria” [[3]](#footnote-3) from Britain exploit it. The Americans, having become stronger in Syria and Lebanon, received an opportunity to create a continuous line of military bases and strategic points between Turkey and Israel along the Mediterranean east coast.

Sent to Comrade Stalin and other comrades from the Group of Eight, as well as to Comrades Suslov, Vyshinsky and Grigorian.

[RSASPH, fund 82, inv. 2, fold. 1042, p. 176]

Keywords: Middle East

1. At the top of the page there is a hand-written mark indicating V.M. Molotov’s receipt and reading of the document: ‘V.М. 26/V’. This information goes into the summary report under the sequential number 2 for 25.5.1952. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Hashemite dynasty (in the original document it has been written “Hoshemite”) – the ruling dynasty of the Hejaz (1916-1925), Syria (1920), Iraq (1921-1958) and Jordan (from 1921 to the present day). The founder was the King of the Hejaz Hussein ibn Ali al-Hashimi (ruled 1916-1924). The line descends from one of the original clans in Mecca, from which the Prophet Muhammad came. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The idea of a “Greater Syria” meant the creation of an Arab state extending across the whole “Fertile Crescent” from the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf. The King of Jordan Abdullah ibn Hussein (1946-1951) was an energetic advocate of the creation of such a state. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)