

DECLASSIFIED
Authority **NND 969049**
By **CM NARA** Date **6-12-03**

Decentralized Files.

FILE DESIGNATION

106125/R

EUR	FE	NEA	CU
5		5	
INR	E	P	IO
6			5
L	FBO	AID	
3			
AGR	COM	FRB	INT
LAU	TAR	TR	XMB
AIR	ARMY	NAVY	OSD
5	3	7	34
USA	NSA	CIA	35c
10	3	16	6

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION

POST ROUTING		
TO:	Action	Info. Initials
AMB		
COM		
CON		
CONS		
NDM		
DIS		
IN		
IE		

HANDLED BY **1972-8-18 Assad, Communists** A-226
Department of State
RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Reconciliation

INFO : AMMAN, CAIRO, LONDON, MOSCOW, PARIS,
TEL AVIV, TRIPOLI AUG 24 3 34 PM '72
FROM : Amembassy BEIRUT ANALYSIS BRANCH DATE: August 18, 1972
SUBJECT : Reported Reconciliation Among Syrian Communists
REF : BEIRUT A-187, July 14

SUMMARY

The Syrian Communist Party's Central Committee announced on August 10 its unanimous approval of a Moscow-backed plan to heal the long-standing breach between the SCP's feuding "traditionalists" and "dissident" wings and assure Party unity in the future. The statement extolled the USSR's role in helping to bring about agreement on the plan, calling it an "historic indication of support for Syria's national progressive regime, as well as for the economic, social and political measures it has taken, for the Syrian national progressive front, and for the IPC nationalization in Iraq and Syria." It appears that the Soviets played a crucial role in gaining the restoration of at least a semblance of SCP unity, but it may prove short-lived given the depth of bitterness and of the personal/ideological divisions that have caused SCP feuding in the past.

Attachment: *AS*
TASS Statement on Talks with Syrian Communists, July 27.

Exempted from Automatic Decontrol.

FORM DS-323
10-64

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

For Department Use Only

Notified by: D Drafting Date: 8/17/72 Phone No.: 233 Contents and Classification Approved By: DCM:RBHoughton

References: POL:TTCarolan:ckt

POL:RBOakley *para* POL/EX *para*

DECLASSIFIED

OFFICIAL USE

Page 2

A - 226

Authority ND 96904qBy CM NARA Date 6-12-03

An SCP delegation headed by Khalid Bakdash, and including both his supporter Yusuf Feisal and "dissident" leaders Daniel Nimeh, Zahir 'Abd al Samad, Murad Yusuf and Riad Turk, was invited to Moscow July 21-25 for talks with Soviet officials (including Andrei Kirilenko and Boris Ponomarev) aimed at ending the personal and ideological differences that have rent the SCP in recent months. Although details of the agreement worked out during the visit have not been made public, a joint SCP-CP/USSR communique published by TASS on July 27 indicated that efforts were made at Moscow to "strengthen the SCP's ideological, political and organizational unity." Informed speculation has it that these efforts involved Russian recommendations that SCP should (a) reinstate all members of Party committees elected at the Third SCP Congress in November 1967, (b) withdraw accusations of "deviationism" and hostility toward the USSR levelled by Bakdash against the dissident wing in recent months, (c) dissolve all committees formed by either faction since last April, when the conflict between them widened into an open breach, and (d) form a four-member "reconciliation" committee to examine the causes of the split and recommend further measures to prevent its recurrence.

Although the SCP Central Committee expressed complete satisfaction over the results of the delegation's "historic" visit to Moscow and asserted its confidence in the maintenance of future Party unity, we are somewhat skeptical about the degree to which the Party's serious organizational and ideological differences (the latter, as noted REFPAIR, involve radically different views on such subjects as Arab unity, Arab nationalism, a peaceful settlement of the ME conflict, and the existence of Israel) have really been overcome. In our view, these differences are so deeply-rooted that it may only be a question of time before they surface again, perhaps in more acute form.

In any event, the Soviets appear to have pressed SCP leaders hard in Moscow to accept the unity plan, perhaps motivated by the fear that continued Syrian Communist feuding -- added to the repercussions of Russia's latest troubles in Egypt -- could harm Soviet relations with Asad and/or further damage the role of the SCP in the Syrian body politic. (Asad may already have been displeased by Bakdash warning him against imitating Sadat's expulsion of Soviet advisers and perhaps against joining the Egyptian-Libyan merger.) In so doing, the Soviets may have risked antagonizing Asad anyhow, since the latter in his August 10 interview with Beirut's al Anwar (summarized in Beirut 8604) made clear that his dealings with the SCP are internal matters in which the USSR should not interfere. Asked about Soviet efforts to reconcile the warring factions within the SCP, Asad replied: "I have no knowledge of that. It is not Russia's business to interfere in the affairs of any Syrian party. Such interference, when it occurs, is not consistent with our friendship for Russia."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

BUFFUM