

Jordan Probing Stamp "Situation"

Official U. S. Embassy translations from Amman, Jordan, as supplied by one of Linn's correspondents in that area, indicate that various objectionable practices which have been reported recently on the philatelic scene in that country have not gone unnoticed by the Jordanian Post Office Department:

"April 12—A judge will be added to the Ministerial Committee which is investigating the swindle of postage stamps. The Minister of Communications suggested the return from Beirut of the Committee there at present, and that henceforward memorial postage stamps be printed in England." (Al Jihad).

The Minister of Communications later announced that he would issue detailed information about the postage stamps case.

"April 14—The Minister of Communications said that the directives of the King on postage stamps will save for the Ministry an amount of 45,000 Dinars (\$125,000). He said that the printers of these stamps in Beirut cheat." (Amman Al-Masa).

There seems to have been an article about stamps in the paper "As-Subofi" on April 15, but it was not translated.

"April 16—The Minister of Communications said the Cabinet asked Zaki al-Qusus to return to Beirut and supervise the printing of the postage stamps there. The latter presented a report to the Cabinet yesterday about the postage stamps." (Ad-Difa').

The Jerusalem Times (Amman) of April 18 reported that the Committee to supervise the printing of the commemorative stamps had left for Beirut the day before. The body included the Under Secretary for Communications, the Assistant Director of the Accounts Department, the Secretary, and the Cultural Attache of the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut.

"Just the other evening," Linn's informant continued, referring to mid-April, "I was in a shop and saw sheets of the Holy Places issue on sale, at a 'healthy' price—also sheets of the 17th UN Anniversary issue, at a 'big' figure. These are stamps which we ordinary purchasers could not get at the post office here!" he complained.