

"philosophy" which called for "violence for the sake of violence". Few months later they executed their plan to assassinate Col. Shishakli. The abortive attempt on the life of the Assistant Chief of Staff of the Syrian Army lead to the uncovering of the underground organization.<sup>22</sup>

#### THE INFANT MOVEMENT: 1951-1954

It is hardly to be denied that the Kata'ib did succeed as an agitational device in focussing greater public attention on the Palestinian problem. Furthermore, it helped to a certain extent, in checking the demoralizing effects of the defeat of the Arab armies in Palestine. Apart from that, its achievements had not been up to the expectations of its founding leaders. The attempt of the break-away splinter group on the life of Col. Shishaki was indeed suicidal not only to that group but also to the mother organization which was exposed to the police as a result of a full confession by Husayn Tawfiq who was one of the men arrested and charged with the attempt on the life of Col. Shishakly.<sup>23</sup>

It was a new and painful experience for the few remaining leaders who escaped the watching eyes of the police to cope with the new situation. For one thing, terrorist politics demands a high level of secrecy and with the

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<sup>22</sup>Seale, loc. cit.

<sup>23</sup>"Syria Accuses 21 of the Terrorist Acts", The New York Times, November 13, 1950, p. 11.