

and Husayn Tawfiq represented the "Egyptian Group". All pending issues were resolved and a new leadership of three: Al-Hindi, Dhahi, and Husayn were elected and empowered to take the necessary steps to unite the three groups under the name of Kata'ib Al-Fida' Al-'Arabi. This leadership was later enlarged to include George Habash and Abdul Kader Amer. The latter had been accused of throwing grenades at the British Club in Alexandria, he escaped with his companions, Mustafa Kamal al-Thafrawi and Abdul Rahman Marsi, from jail and all three took refuge in Syria.

The Kata'ib adopted the political program of the Beirut-based group stressing the issues of Arab unity and the liberation of Palestine as its ultimate objectives. The "Egyptian Group" which was more experienced in clandestine activities provided the new organization, as mentioned earlier, with a set of tools and organizational concepts that proved to be invaluable.

It took the new leadership about four months before it could launch its first attack. On August 5, 1949, armed men of the Kata'ib unfortunately attacked a synagogue in Damascus killing 12 and injuring 27. It was believed that the Kata'ib carried out its assault on the synagogue to protest the Palestine peace negotiations conducted by the United Nations Conciliation Commission in Lausanne, Switzerland. The leadership of the Kata'ib had ordered the bombing on the assumption that the outrage would perhaps check the Lausanne peace negotiations, Syria's provisional