

20 July 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: REAR ADMIRAL ROBERT L. DENNISON
NAVAL AIDE TO THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: King Abdullah's Assassination

Attached hereto is the CIA comment on the
subject assassination.

~~SECRET~~

[Redacted Signature]

Assistant to the Director

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Enclosure - 1

[Redacted Enclosure]

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FILE: WHITE HOUSE

Official ✓

CONFIDENTIAL

20 July 1951

Comment on King Abdullah's Assassination

On 20 July King Abdullah of Jordan was assassinated while entering the al Aqsa Mosque in the Old City of Jerusalem. The assassin, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was killed on the spot. A state of emergency has been declared in Jordan; and Prince Naif, second son of the King, has been named temporary Regent.

Sixty-nine year old King Abdullah had been the ruler of Jordan since the state was created by the British following World War I. He has been considered the most consistently and reliably pro-British ruler in the Near East. Abdullah's eldest son Tallal, the heir apparent, is currently undergoing treatment in a mental institution in Switzerland. Under the terms of the constitution Tallal's mental condition precludes his becoming monarch, and his fifteen year old son Hussein accordingly is the legal successor.

Abdullah's apparent willingness to try to achieve a treaty with Israel and his sporadic attempts, in conjunction with his nephew the Regent of Iraq, to establish a Greater Syria, consisting of Iraq, Jordan and Syria, made him many enemies in the neighboring Arab states as well as within Jordan. [REDACTED]

The death of Abdullah removes a resolute anti-Communist, pro-Western ruler. The end of Abdullah's influence will most immediately and directly affect the British, who rely on the British-trained, officered, and financed Arab Legion (the army of Jordan) as the only competent and dependable Arab army in the Near East. The confusion and possible disorders which may result can only benefit the anti-Western elements in the Near East.

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Prepared by OCI -- 1300

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