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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Syria/Iraq/Transjordan

DATE DISTR. 28 Apr 1949

SUBJECT Syrian Coup d'Etat

NO. OF PAGES 1

25X1A6a

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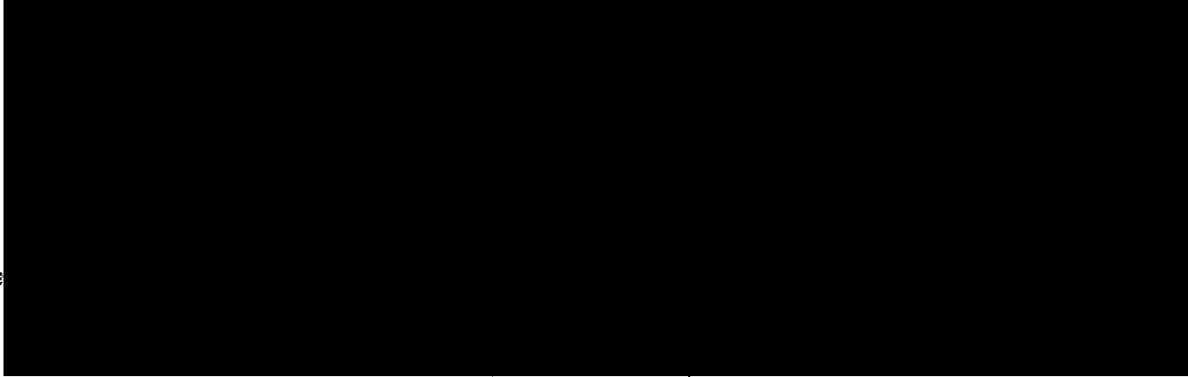
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. Jamal Baban,\* prominent Iraqi politician, who visited Husni Za'im in the first days of April as a fellow Kurd from the Iraqi Government, on his return stated the following concerning the Syrian situation:
    - a. Only the Druzes were enthusiastic about Za'im's coup, and Za'im was unlikely to maintain Syrian independence without outside help.
    - b. Za'im admitted to Baban that the new elections in Syria would inevitably be "cooked."
    - c. Baban believed that King 'Abdullah of Transjordan would be unable to resist this chance to realize his Greater Syria ambitions. Baban felt that Iraq should withhold arms and ammunition from Syria and examine the prospects for realization of the "Fertile Crescent" project.
  
  2. In the course of three interviews with King 'Abdullah, an official Syrian visitor told the King that the leaders of the Syrian Peoples' Party and the Resurrection Party (al-Ba'ith) were anxious to learn his views before executing plans to promote the union of the countries of geographical Syria. The visitor stated to source that 'Abdullah replied that he could only give whatever help Husni Za'im requested to maintain order in Syria, and that he was anxious to avoid giving his enemies the chance to interpret any other interference by Transjordan in Syrian internal matters as an act of aggression.
- 25X1A6a \* Comment. A reliable neutral source was informed by an Iraqi with good police contacts that Jamal Baban, on his return to Baghdad from Damascus in early April, told Prime Minister Nuri Sa'id that the Syrian coup was entirely internal, but that Husni Za'im had told him that he was in favor of King 'Abdullah's Greater Syria plan.
- 25X1A6a \* Comment. It is expected that Baban will be the next Iraqi Minister to Lebanon.

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 Class. CHANGED TO: TS S   
 DDA Memo, 4 Mar 77  
 Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763  
 Date: 15 MAY 1978 By: 014

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