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5 October 1961

# CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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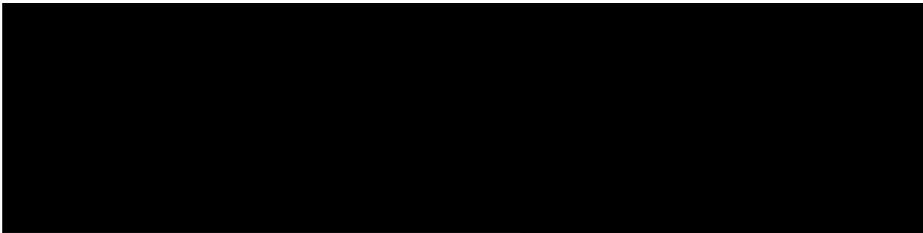
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The Kuzbari government and the "Syrian Army Revolutionary Command" have consolidated their control and, in order to allay suspicion aroused by their rightist background, are attempting to conciliate public opinion by promising to continue and expand some of the social and economic reforms instituted by Nasir. The USSR is maintaining an officially noncommittal attitude toward the revolt, although its leaders probably see the split as an opportunity for renewed Communist activity in Syria.



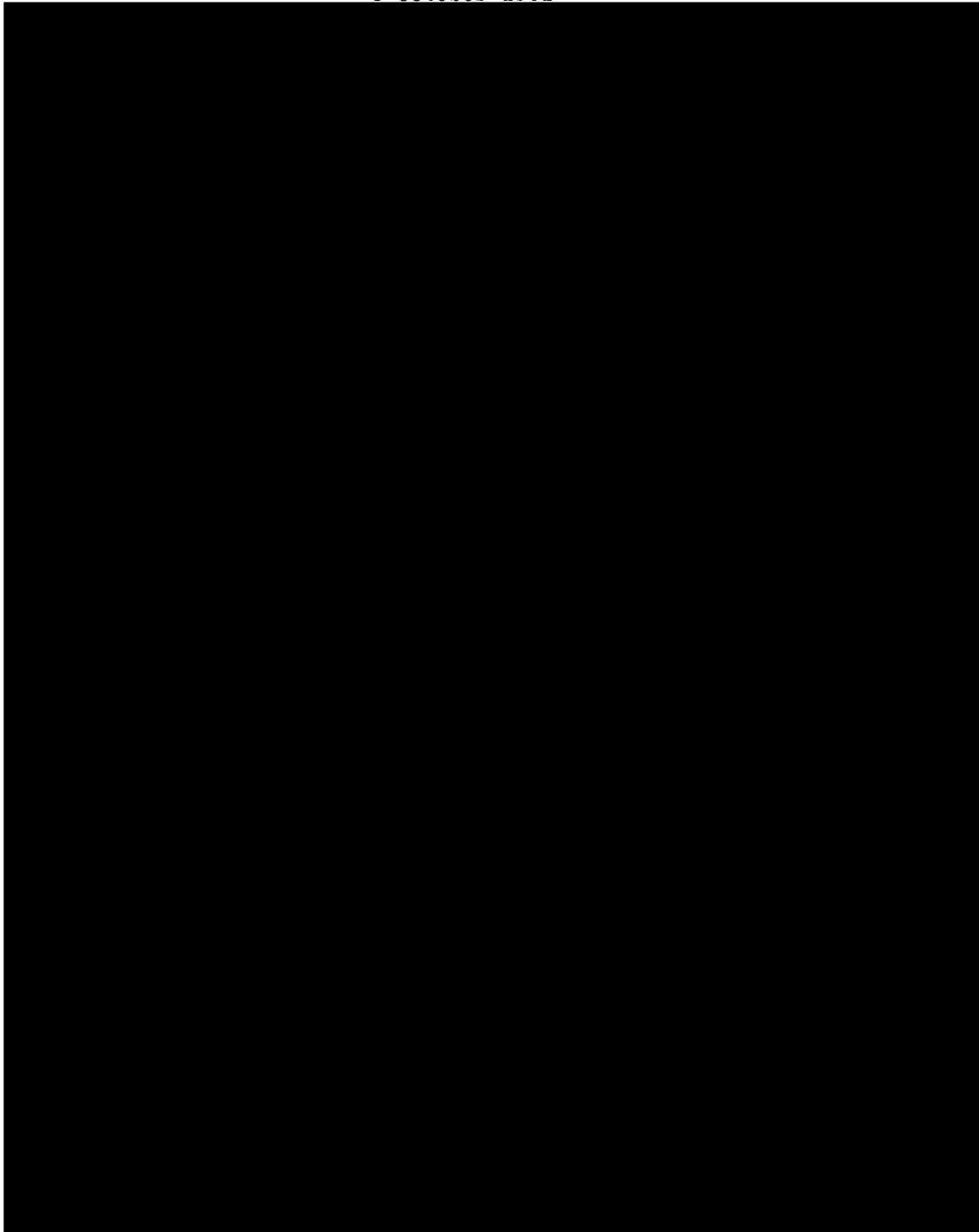
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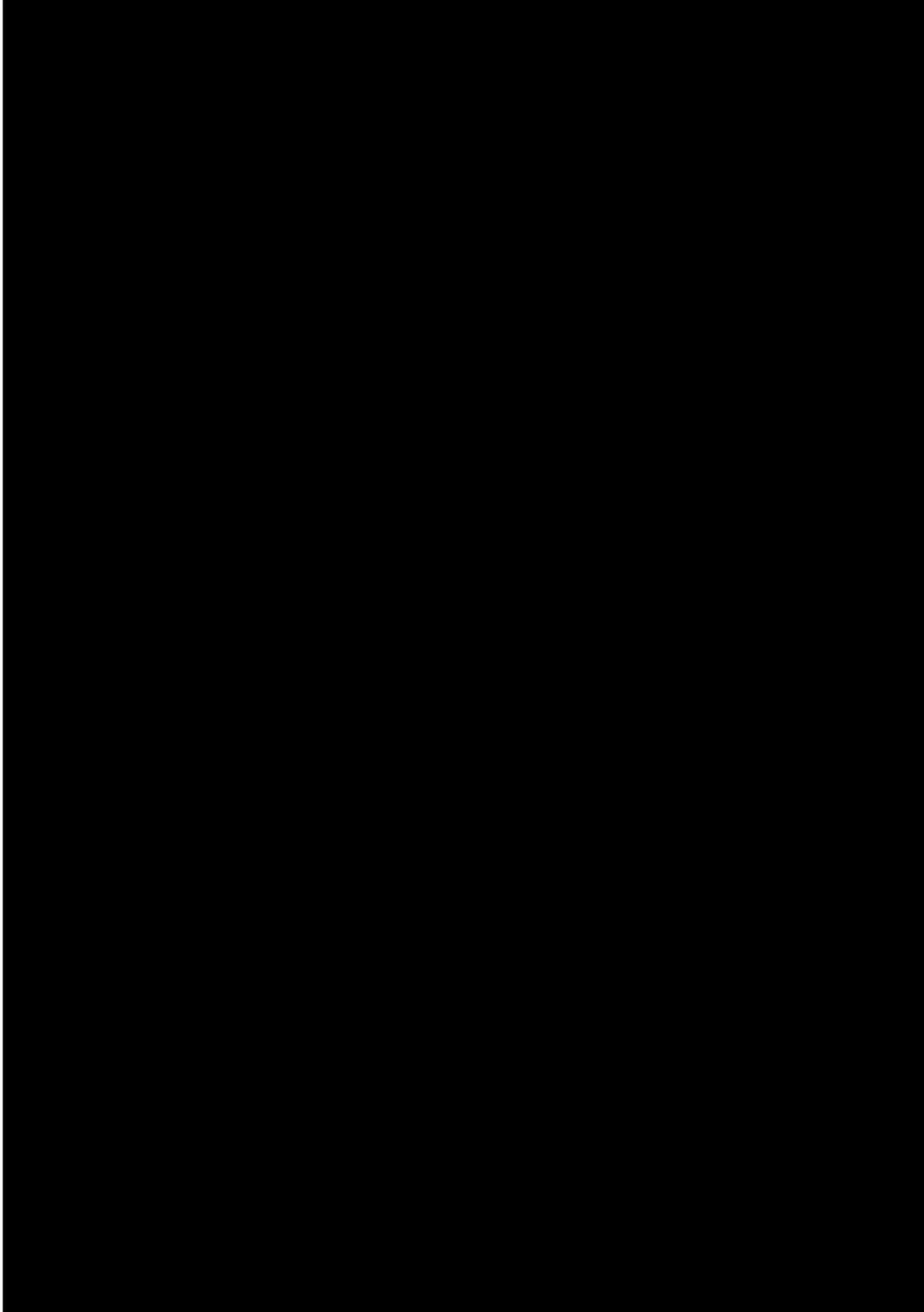
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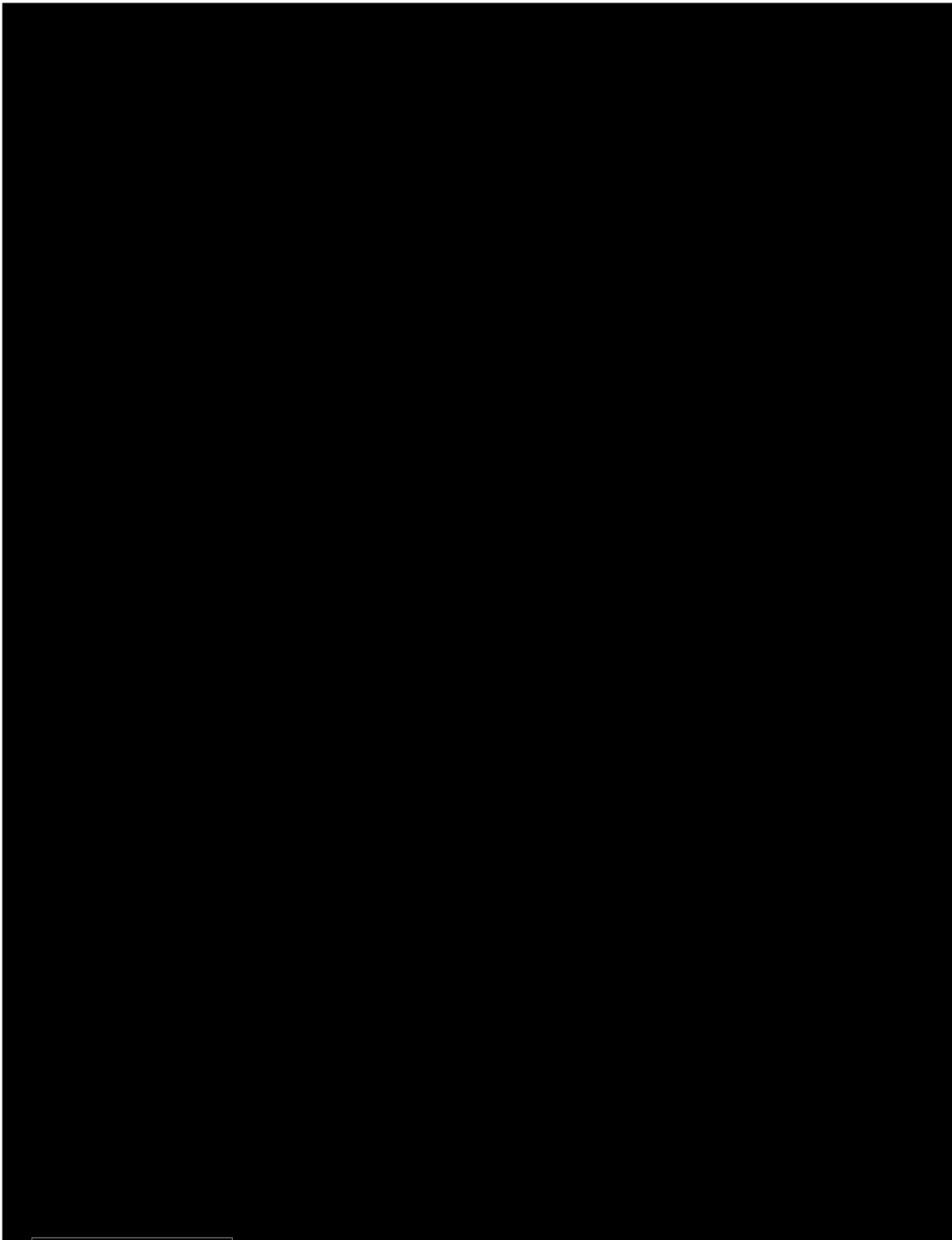
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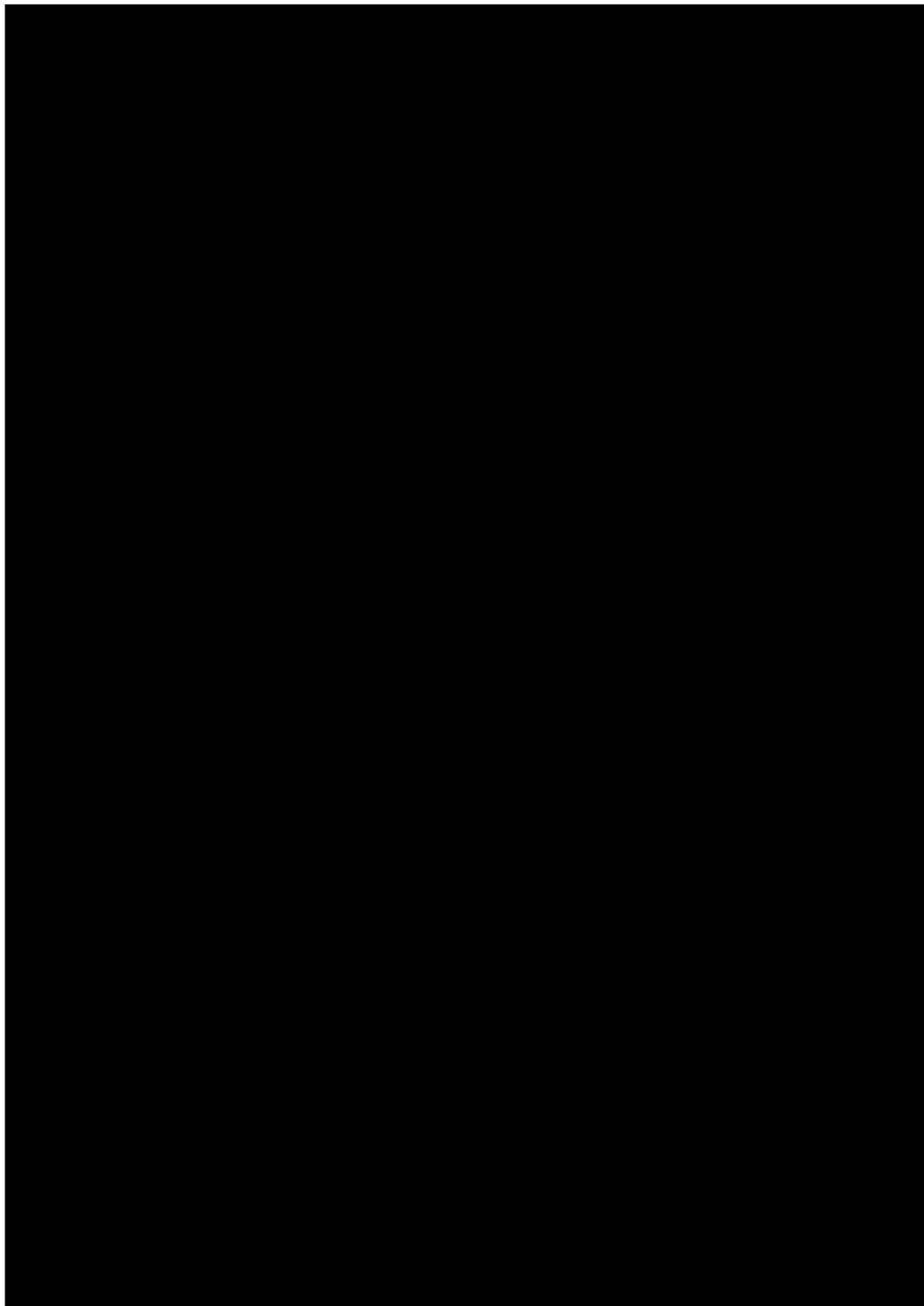
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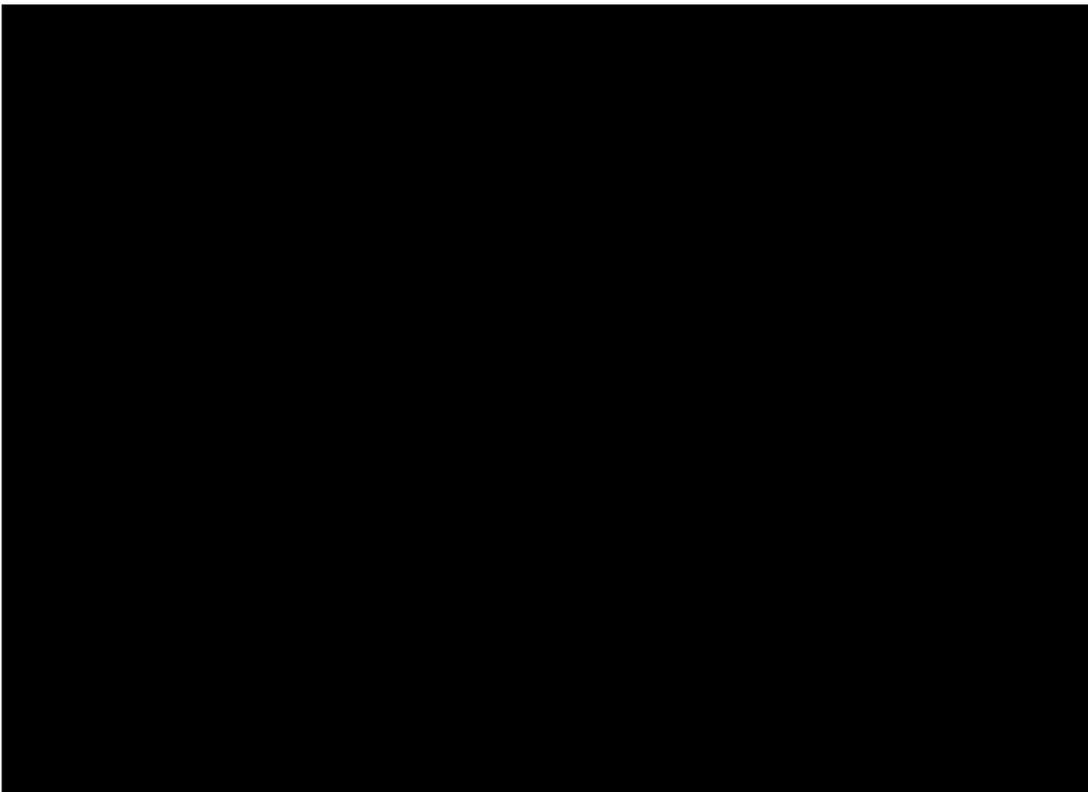
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SYRIA-EGYPT

The early-morning coup in Damascus on 28 September [REDACTED] and the small military clique responsible for the action quickly consolidated its initial success with comparatively little resistance throughout Syria.

leaders Akram al-Hawrani and Salah al-Din Bitar. Apparently, the Kuzbari regime promised early parliamentary elections in return for this support. Nasir's monolithic political movement, the National Union, has been dissolved throughout Syria.

Schools have been closed

[REDACTED] Egyptians in Syria have been ordered to register with security authorities as foreigners, but orders for their mandatory expulsion have been rescinded; several hundred have already returned to Egypt.

The prospects for continued maintenance of a stable government in Syria do not appear good. Before union with Egypt, Syria was beset with internal political turbulence, and coups and counter-coups were frequent. The Kuzbari government will probably be subjected to increasing pressure from less conservative political groups. There is, moreover, reason to believe that some of the army officers in the revolutionary command are not entirely satisfied with the make-up of the Kuzbari cabinet.

The Kuzbari regime in Syria, well aware that it will be called reactionary, has made strenuous efforts to give the impression that social gains made during the UAR period will be retained. The appointment of a moderate socialist as minister of national guidance was a move in this direction, as have been several announcements that such worker benefits as employee profit sharing and participation in management would be retained and expanded. The agrarian reform law decreed by Nasir also is to be carried out.

Only Jordan among the Arab states has so far recognized the Kuzbari government: Qasim and King Saud are undoubtedly greatly pleased at Nasir's setback but have given no indication when Iraqi and Saudi recognition would be extended.

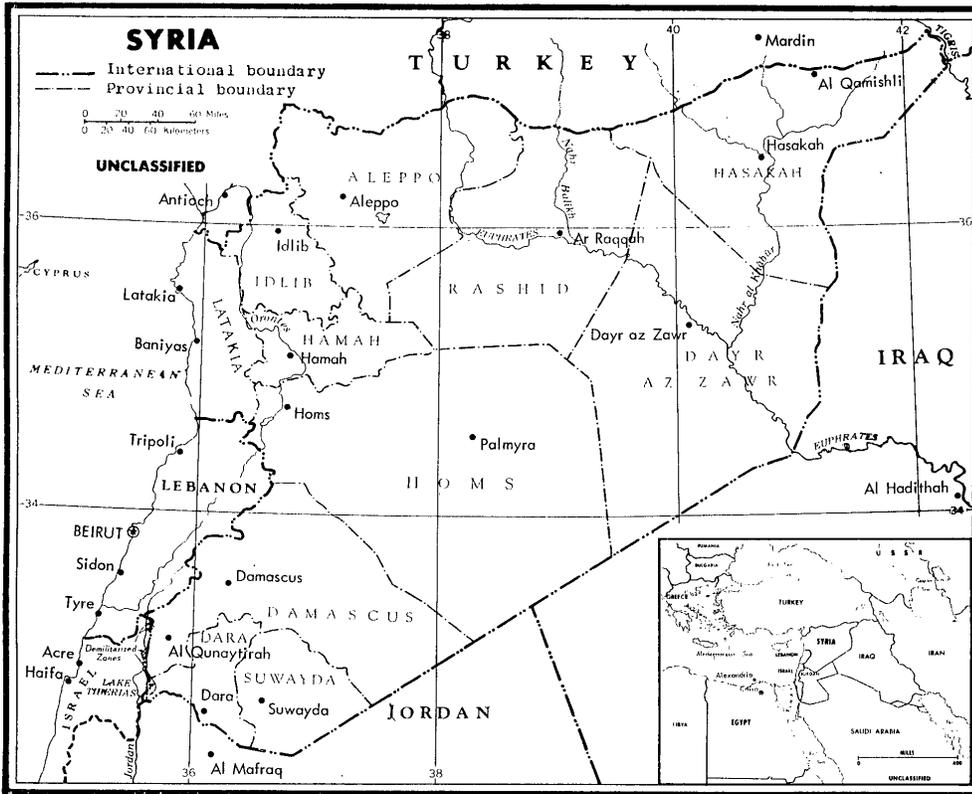
Beirut has been the scene of several sizable pro-Nasir and pro-UAR demonstrations since the coup [REDACTED]

The new government's internal position should be strengthened by the 1 October declaration of support from a cross-section of Syrian political leaders, including those who were responsible for Syria's union with Egypt in 1958. Of particular significance is the open support of such leftists as Baathist

Because Iran and Turkey were also prompt to establish relations with Damascus, their ships are being refused service in transiting the Suez Canal.

Public reaction in Egypt appears to have been largely apathetic, and the Nasir regime is reported concerned over the

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possibility that the Syrian revolt might prove contagious.



Moscow is treating the Syrian situation with caution. Although the USSR almost certainly welcomed the split as an opportunity to resume Communist activity in Syria, its official attitude is circumscribed by the importance of maintaining harmonious relations with Nasir. [redacted] believes the Soviet leaders will wait to see if the Damascus government can establish itself firmly and let Western powers "test UAR reaction."

The outlawed Syrian Communist party on 4 October published a statement in a Beirut Communist newspaper hailing the revolt as "an expression of hatred for imperialism and Pharaonic domination." The party calls for release from jail of the "detained nationalists" and for "a national democratic rule hostile to imperialism and based on free parliamentary elections."

Party leaders, [redacted] [redacted] are obviously looking forward to a climate in which they can operate more successfully. [redacted]