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Area Briefs

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2. IRAQ: DISMISSAL OF COMMUNIST MINISTER.4

2. IRAQ: IRAQI PRESIDENT BAKR FIRED THE REMAINING COMMUNIST MEMBER OF THE CABINET LAST WEEKEND, INTENSIFYING THE FEUD THAT OVER THE PAST YEAR HAS RESULTED IN VIRTUAL SUPPRESSION OF IRAQI COMMUNISTS BY THE GOVERNMENT'S BAATHIST LEADERSHIP. STRIPPING THE COMMUNISTS OF THEIR NOMINAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE RULING POPULAR AND PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL FRONT, THE REMAINING SYMBOL OF BAATHIST-COMMUNIST COOPERATION, COULD BE THE NEXT MOVE. THIS WOULD DENY THE PARTY WHAT LITTLE POLITICAL PROTECTION IT NOW ENJOYS FOR OVERT ACTIVITY AND DRIVE IT UNDERGROUND. MANY COMMUNISTS HAVE

[REDACTED]

ALREADY GONE INTO HIDING IN IRAQI KURDISTAN, WHERE THE
PARTY HAS LONG HAD GOOD CONTACTS. THE SOVIETS OBJECT TO
THE REPRESSION OF THE IRAQI COMMUNISTS, BUT THEY WOULD
NOT JEOPARDIZE RELATIONS WITH IRAQ BY PUBLICLY EXPRESSING
THEIR UNHAPPINESS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]