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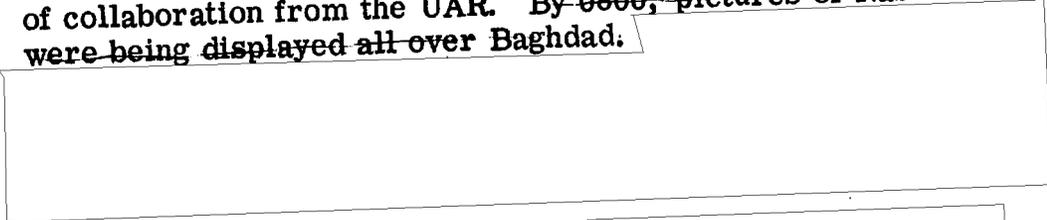
LATE ITEM

Army Officers Overthrow Iraqi Monarchy (As of 0500 EDT)

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A group of young Iraqi army officers has executed a coup against Iraq's pro-Western government. The group, which took action early in the morning of 14 July, has announced the formation of a "Republican Government of Iraq" with a cabinet of army officers and leftist civilians. The coup may have taken place before King Faysal could leave Baghdad for a scheduled meeting of the Moslem Baghdad Pact powers in Istanbul; his fate, as well as that of Prime Minister Nuri Said and Crown Prince Abd al-Illah, is uncertain. Baghdad Radio has broadcast that the "people" could "look in the streets to see the bodies" of two persons who were identified only as "one who desired to fly high above the people" and "his master."

The coup was almost certainly undertaken with some type of collaboration from the UAR. By 0800, ~~pictures of Nasir were~~ were being displayed all over Baghdad.



As of 0700 hours Baghdad time, [redacted] the situation in the Iraqi capitol was relatively normal, with traffic as usual, and the bridges over the Tigris River patrolled. There was "some considerable jubilation" among crowds passing the American embassy. Baghdad Radio has appealed to the public not to attack foreign embassies or personnel. The only shooting reported was limited to an initial foray around Nuri Said's house.

Some attempt at resistance to the coup may be made by pro-Western army officers, but would probably be handicapped by the popularity of the coup as well as by disaffection within junior officer ranks.

Iraqi withdrawal from the Baghdad Pact has been foreseen by the non-Arab members of the pact, and Iran has been proposing a re-grouping without Iraq. Such proposals will almost certainly be discussed when other pact members meet in Istanbul

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today or tomorrow. [redacted]

The coup in Iraq ultimately threatens the free access of the West to Middle East oil supplies both in Iraq itself and in Kuwait, the area's largest producer. The Nuri Said government was unsuccessful in efforts to promote Kuwait's adherence to the Iraqi-Jordanian union, partly because of popular sentiment in Kuwait against such a move. An Iraqi government favorable to the UAR would have greater appeal to the Kuwait populace.

The Iraqi coup will also have a strong impact on the remaining pro-Western Arab state governments. Damascus Radio has already broadcast an appeal to Iraqis allegedly fighting on the side of the pro-Western government in Lebanon to join the rebel forces there. The Jordanian government, threatened by serious internal factionalism, seems likely to be even more immediately affected. [redacted]

The Israeli government will be extremely concerned. The Israelis might move into West Jordan should they believe that the Jordanian government would be overthrown and that Israel was about to be surrounded by states under Nasir's direct influence. The Israelis can be expected in any event to press very strongly for specific security guarantees from the West. [redacted]

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