

NSC BRIEFING

5 March 1958

NEAR EAST (short form)

- I. Nasir now in all-out propoganda battle with pro-West Arab leaders.
 - A. He has now followed up attacks on Jordanian and Iraqi leaders with an assault on Saud.
 1. In revealing Saud's efforts to block UAR, Nasir is taking step which seems likely to make final the cleavage between him and the moderate leaders.
- II. Nasir's denunciation will tend to strengthen existing dissatisfaction with Saud's rule. Saud himself is probably undecided on what kind of riposte to make.
- III. There have already been reverberations to Nasir's previous attacks in Jordan and Iraq. Violence will probably continue.
 - A. Ammam was earlier forced to close schools in Nablus, West Jordan.
 - B. Minor demonstrations by school students in Baghdad.
 - C. Pro-government newspaper in Jordanian Jerusalem had its presses blown up this week.
 - D. The urban crowds in Jordan and Iraq support Nasir.
 - F. Nasir's next move, as announced, will be to obtain adherence to UAR by "Arab Palestine," represented by Egyptian puppet government in Gaza Strip.
- IV. We still uncertain why Saud finally received the Soviet ambassador to Syria.
 - A. Saud has now told us that he rebuffed Soviet proposal for formal diplomatic relations and assistance.

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V. Yemen, having adhered to Nasir's UAR, seems bent on continuing to harass British in Aden, relying Bloc and Egyptian arms and aid.

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