

1 August 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. Twenty issues of INFORM (the organ of International Services of Information Foundation, Inc.) published between 19 July 1957 and 15 July 1958 contain no statement that could be interpreted as indicating fore-knowledge of the coup that occurred in Iraq on 14 July 1958.
3. INFORM for 15 July 1958 begins with the sentence: "Despite 300 million dollars spent annually by one U.S. intelligence agency (one Senator said it is closer to a billion) the Administration is constantly being surprised at happenings overseas, some of them catastrophic." INFORM then states that its readers "were not surprised" and contrasts its alleged success with the alleged failure of the above-mentioned intelligence agency. This claim is "substantiated" with thirteen quotations from previous INFORM issues, the assumption being that they demonstrate a superior realization of events leading to the July 1958 crisis. These are attached immediately following this page.
4. Other statements from discussions of the Near East appearing in the INFORM issues noted above which might have been similarly used are:
 - 30 August 1957: "IRAQ IS THE NEXT TARGET" (but in this case a target for Soviet-Egyptian penetration in the manner of Syria)
 - 29 October 1957: "An explosion may rock the world at any moment. A miscalculation in Soviet Russia's dangerous bluff in the Middle East could set it off..." (Note date.)
 - 12 December 1957: "The Kremlin intends to keep the Middle East in a state of ferment until she is ready to act..."

12 December 1957: (cont'd) "The murder of King Hussein of Jordan, followed by a Communist coup, is being elaborately plotted. This report is given credence in official British circles..."

23 January 1958: "The Russians believe that they can gain control of the Middle East without risk of war."

24 February 1958: "Another significant move in the Middle East will come during the next twelve months."

30 March 1958: "Russian policy in the Middle East is working out very successfully and Khrushchev and his team have relied on this to bring Western Europe to heel." (The policy referred to was that of keeping the French from exploiting the alleged mineral wealth of the Sahara.)

5. Most of the issues covered comment on the Middle East in one connection or another. The connecting link is alleged Soviet strategy in the area. The nature of this strategy as seen by the editors of INFORM tends to vary from issue to issue. Most commonly the concept involves a Soviet or Soviet-inspired attack on Israel. For example:

16 October 1957: "Whitehall" is given as the authority for statements to the effect that Syria will attack Israel, thus setting off a war that may not be controllable.

12 December 1957: "The next scare in the Middle East will probably come over Iran and will be accompanied by careful stirring up of the difficult Jordan-Israel situation."

24 February 1958: "A Russian plan as outlined in this issue is to propose in the United Nations that no more Jews be allowed to go to Palestine. The result of this proposal will be solid Arab backing of Soviet policy."

15 May 1958: There is increasing concern in Western Europe over the situation in the Middle East because it is thought that the Soviet plan is to consolidate the Arabs against Israel. Egypt and Syria will then be in position to sabotage the oil supply needed in Western Europe.

Also, according to Turkish sources: "Russia intends to strike in the Middle East before long." The Soviet intention is the destruction of Israel before effective Western intervention can take place. The U.K. and France will be hesitant to become involved in the Middle East again after the Suez experience. The U.S. "has but a few hundred Marines available." After the attack on Israel: "Khrushchev believes it will be just like the Suez incident ... once Israel is destroyed, there will be strong protests; the Arabs will be told how naughty they have been; Khrushchev and Eisenhower will act together through the U.N. to effect a settlement."

19 June 1958: A propaganda war is going on between the UAR and Iraq-Jordan. As a result, Nasser is being forced into a position where his bluff will be called unless he leads the Arabs against Israel. If he does so, he will have a good chance of winning. The Russians believe they will win either way: if the Arabs defeat Israel, Russia will get control of Middle East oil through their Arab friends; if the Arabs lose, the Middle East will be in such a state of confusion that the Soviet will be enabled to control the area.

6. Other comments on aspects of the Middle East situation follow:

2 August 1957: (Note: This issue was particularly singled out by proponents of INFORM as showing INFORM's superior prescience in Middle Eastern affairs.)

Nasser is pursuing a long-range plan designed to make him ruler of all Arabs with an empire extending throughout the Middle East and Africa. His backers and advisers in this scheme are the Russians and a coterie of former German Nazis in Cairo. The Russians, however, are only using Nasser as a pawn in this game and will take over control of his empire once he has served his purpose.

16 August 1957: Greek intelligence thinks the Russians are planning to touch off the Balkans "powder keg" with the objective of establishing themselves in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Suez.

30 August 1957: The Soviets intend to get agreements with Syria which will permit them to move troops there "at the request of" the Syrian government. "These plans have been carefully laid to make the Eisenhower Doctrine inapplicable to Syria." The danger is that "the blatant disclosure that Russia intends to establish herself in the Middle East at any price might shatter the already precarious Arab solidarity and compel Syria's neighbors to take action." (This plan is supposed to call for peaceful penetration under the guise of "Co-existence," but it might lead to war because there may be a military clique in the Kremlin which wishes to bring about another Pearl Harbor.)

7 January 1958: Africa "will soon blaze" (as a result of Soviet agent activity in Equatorial Africa.) The real Soviet objective, however, is control of East Africa and all approaches to the Indian

Ocean. (See also issue of 14 March where this same strategy is outlined in detail.)

24 February 1958: There are probably Soviet missile experts in Syria, and "it is certainly true that ballistic missiles are going to Syria."

The USSR is about to get control of Ghana, which will become the western anchor of Soviet strategy opposite to Egypt. Concentration camps are already being prepared in Ghana. (The U.S. government already knows about this, so that it will not be able to claim "surprise.")

31 March 1958: The Syrians' real reason for joining the UAR was to avoid having to surrender utterly to Soviet Communism.

15 May 1958: Feisal will take Saudi Arabia into the UAR. The UAR will then put "overwhelming pressure" on Iraq and Jordan "and are certain to destroy the Arab Federation or bend it to their purposes."

SIGNED

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