



~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~SECRET~~

COPY NO. 50  
OCI NO. 1798/58  
17 July 1958

# CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



DOCUMENT NO. 7  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.   
 DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 1989  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 904929 REVIEWER:

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~SECRET~~

RETURN TO ARCHIVES & RECORDS CENTER  
.....EDIATELY AFTER USE

797927 18

228514/1

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~

## CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

17 July 1958

the coup group. [redacted]

[redacted] suggest that Brigadier Abd al-Salaam Arif, who has been named vice premier and has assumed charge of the strategically placed Ministry of Interior, is the real leader of the new regime. Several of the civilians named to the cabinet are exiles; others are persons who had long been banned from politics or who had been forced out of the army because of political activity.

While the military leaders have assumed a superficially friendly attitude in talks with the American and British ambassadors, the new regime appears basically radical, Arab nationalist, and anti-Western. Should Kamil Chadirchi, Iraq's most prominent leftist front man, be called on to participate in the new government, this would almost certainly be an indication of pro-Communist influence.

The Baghdad regime has been assured of UAR assistance in whatever form it desires. Nasser's government has also formally announced that it would regard an attack on Iraq as an attack on the UAR.

#### Impact of Coup in Area

The threat the Iraqi developments pose to Jordan and possibly to oil-rich Kuwait have been the aspects of most concern to other states in the area. Turkey has been particularly vehement in its insistence that Jordan's government be given all the support possible from the Western camp, and the Turks have taken various measures to strengthen their military position in areas bordering Syria and Iraq.

Israel has been especially concerned over Jordan; the Israelis almost certainly feel they would have to take military action, probably to seize West Jordan, should the Jordanian Government be overthrown. The British troop support for King Husayn has probably lessened their fears temporarily. Israel militarily remains alert, but there have been no indications of mobilization as yet. The Israelis are capable, however, of full mobilization within 48 hours with very few advance indications.

In the Arabian and Persian Gulf oil areas, the news from Iraq was hailed popularly with some exuberance.

Open manifestations of approval have also been reported from Kuwait, where the acting ruler put on a show of force to curb paraders who were shouting "Long live the Iraqi Army," and from Bahrein, where there is an American-owned refinery. Britain is sending additional troops to Bahrein and to Aden, and the chief British diplomat in Kuwait has been authorized by London to call in British troops if local security forces cannot control disturbances. Further afield, the Sudanese and Libyan governments fear that pro-Egyptian elements may take some action.

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

17 July 1958

## PART I

OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

## MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

Jordan

The landing of British forces in Jordan on 17 July may forestall a coup attempt against King Husayn by UAR-supported opposition elements. The UAR operations may have been postponed. The Baghdad radio on 17 July was still forecasting a revolution in Jordan "tomorrow."

Acutely aware of the danger to his government, Husayn has instituted extensive security precautions. Demonstrations in West Jordan favoring the Iraqi coup were suppressed, and additional army officers and others suspected of disloyalty have been arrested. The Iraqi troops which Husayn had once hoped might assist him in maintaining order in Jordan were allowed to return to Iraq after their officers threatened to shoot their way out of the country. These troops have now joined other Iraqi forces at pumping station H-3, some 50 miles inside Iraq, and probably will remain there for the time being as a barrier to Husayn's stated intention of using his own army against the Iraqi regime. In time these Iraqi forces may well be used by Baghdad to exert pressure on Husayn, and presumably would be available if called on to support a pro-UAR coup in Amman.

Lebanon

Although the American landing force in Beirut met an initially friendly reception, sentiment hostile to the move now appears to be building up. Even moderate Lebanese politi-

cians are finding it inadvisable to favor the move, and the rebels are issuing propaganda statements that they will oppose it. General Shihab, the Lebanese Army commander, is continuing to obstruct the operations of the American forces.

There is no indication so far that the UAR intends to oppose the American action directly. However, UAR assistance to the rebels, already much in evidence during the previous week, is likely to be stepped up.

The landing of the marines plus other area developments puts an end for the moment to the political compromise moves which were being talked of last week.

Iraq

The new quasi-military regime in Baghdad is gradually extending its authority to all parts of the country. The regime has eliminated most, if not all, the potential leaders of any countermove. Not only have King Faysal, Crown Prince Abd al-Illah, and Prime Minister Nuri Said been killed, but a substantial number of other personalities in the Nuri government appear to have suffered the same fate. Massive transfers of high officers have been made to extend the coup leaders' hold over the army.

The formal head of the new republic is General Rubai, most recently Iraqi ambassador to Saudi Arabia. However, neither Rubai nor Brigadier Qasim, the new prime minister, may be the actual leader of

~~SECRET~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PART I

OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

Page 1 of 6

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

## CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

17 July 1958

press reaction along more favorable lines.

Latin America: A growing number of Latin American governments are indicating approval of the US landings. Chile has publicly expressed its full support, and private statements of support have come from Brazil, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic. Argentina, Bolivia, and Peru have privately stated their satisfaction and approval, and Mexico and Costa Rica have privately expressed their sympathetic understanding. In Buenos Aires, however, on the night of 16 July a small mob of 200 to 300 persons, tentatively identified as Communists and sympathizers, attacked the US chancery, inflicting small property damage.

Far East - Southeast Asia: Indonesian Foreign Minister Subandrio stated on 15 July that the Iraqi situation must be decided completely by the Iraqi people. He hoped it would be settled in the "Bandung spirit." On the other hand, Merdeka, a non-Communist nationalist paper which often acts as the government mouthpiece, declared on 16 July that the "flagrant American intervention" could not be tolerated, and that it would "call for intervention from other circles," thus increasing the possibility that hostilities would spread to other areas.

The Japanese Government has indicated that developments in Lebanon and Iraq are domestic affairs which made outside intervention undesirable. This view apparently has led Prime Minister Kishi to state that

Japan would express disapproval in the UN Security Council of the American move in Lebanon. He also asserted that any intervention in Iraq would be "undesirable," even if called for by the United Nations.

Government spokesmen in South Korea and Taiwan have staunchly supported the US troop landings. Chen Cheng, the new Chinese Nationalist prime minister, said Nasir must be overthrown in order to solve the problems of the Middle East. Nationalist Chinese military forces have been placed on a special alert, and daylight air patrols are being made along the mainland coast. [redacted]

[redacted] the leaves of North Korean military personnel have been canceled have been confirmed by Pyongyang radio. There is no indication, however, that Seoul or Taipei is considering any unilateral action as a result of the Middle East crisis.

South Asia: Indian Prime Minister Nehru is reacting cautiously and confining himself to generalized statements, saying merely that intervention by "outside" powers in Lebanon could create a "great danger of world war." Most Indian newspapers, however, have reacted violently, describing the landings as "political insanity," "a flagrant breach of international law," and as reducing the UN Charter to a "mockery." Pakistani reaction has been limited as a result of the absence of President Mirza and Army Commander in Chief Ayub, who are in Turkey. [redacted]

\* \* \*

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~

## CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

17 July 1958

Free World Reaction

Initial free world reaction to the Iraqi coup and the American landings in Lebanon is for the most part along expected lines. Western European reaction has been mixed, although many countries, concerned over the rising Arab nationalism, have supported the American moves. A growing number of Latin American governments are indicating approval of the landings. Asian countries allied to the Baghdad Pact or otherwise closely associated with the United States seem willing to back the American actions. The "neutralist" and small nations in general are concerned mainly with the possibility of World War III, and hope that the United Nations can take over from the United States as soon as possible. Little reaction has developed yet in Africa.

Western Europe: Opinion is split over whether the United States' intervention in Lebanon will help stem the rise of Arab nationalism highlighted by the Iraqi coup. Conservative opinion tends to support the action, socialist opinion to criticize it, while independent views straddle the fence. Only in France, among the major countries, do all shades of non-Communist opinion support the landing, albeit with caustic comments that if the 1956 Suez intervention had succeeded the Arab nationalist tide might have been halted then.

Strongest governmental opposition has come from Sweden, which believes the landing was not justified by the UN Charter and prejudices the usefulness

of the UN Observer Group. Neutral Austria, through Foreign Minister Figl, has expressed complete approval of the American action. Among NATO members, support has come from Britain, France, Turkey, Canada, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, and Portugal, but others have not spoken or have been equivocal. In a North Atlantic Council meeting on 16 July, representatives of West Germany, Denmark, and Norway evaded any direct expression of approval or disapproval, with the Danes and Norwegians supporting the Italian emphasis on the need for a solution through the United Nations. The Greek delegate was uninstructed, and the Icelandic and Luxembourg representatives did not speak.

Sharp criticism of the action has come from the official paper of Norway's governing Labor party, and from two major Conservative press supporters of the Diefenbaker government in Canada. Otherwise criticism in Europe has come principally from socialist opposition forces in Britain, West Germany, and Italy. In Britain the Labor party, while not voting against the government for endorsing the US move, concentrated on warnings against the consequences of any extension of the Western intervention.

The initial reaction of the entire Greek press to the coup in Iraq was that it constituted a new victory for Pan-Arabism and a new and probably fatal blow to the Baghdad Pact and Eisenhower doctrine. Foreign Minister Averoff believes Greek public reaction to American intervention in Lebanon will be unfavorable, but he has promised that his government will attempt to influence

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

## CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

17 July 1958

Communist Reaction

The Soviet Government statement calling for the immediate withdrawal of American troops is Moscow's strongest official pronouncement on the Lebanese crisis, but falls considerably short of Soviet statements during the Suez crisis in 1956 and the Syrian-Turkish dispute of last fall. Terming the situation a "threat to the peace," Moscow employed the classic Soviet formula of noncommitment, stating that the USSR "cannot remain indifferent to events creating a grave menace in an area abutting on its frontiers."

Bloc propaganda reaction to the landings was immediate and voluminous and reflected confidence that the intervention would boomerang when faced with the pressure of world opinion. Peiping and the Eastern European satellite capitals closely paralleled Moscow charges that the move, labeled "open military aggression," was the first stage in comprehensive Western plans for suppressing the Arab national movement and for re-establishing colonial dominance of the Middle East. The Pravda editorial on 17 July called for "hands off Lebanon, hands off Iraq, hands off all Arab countries!"

The Soviet announcement that air and ground force maneuvers in the Transcaucasus and Turkmen Military Districts will begin on 18 July is an effort by the USSR to inhibit any Turkish or Iranian military action against Iraq or Western

military action through Turkey or Iran.

Prompt action by both Moscow and Peiping in recognizing the new Iraqi regime indicates bloc interest in preserving the revolutionary government and inhibiting any Western counter-action in Iraq. Moscow's hurried recognition will lead to the re-establishment of diplomatic relations broken in January 1955 by the Nuri government; Peiping's recognition paves the way for the opening of Peiping-Baghdad ties which would replace the diplomatic relations formerly existing between the Nuri government and Nationalist China.

Communist China: At a mass rally in Peiping on the night of 16 July, called to protest the US move in Lebanon and to proclaim Chinese support for the new republic of Iraq, there were calls for the defeat of American "aggression" in Korea and Taiwan. There are no signs, however, that Peiping is preparing to launch a diversionary military effort in the Far East to counter the US move in the Middle East.

Yugoslavia: Belgrade, while noting the "legitimate interests" Westerners have in the area, has condemned the American landing of troops and has announced its recognition of the new Iraqi republic. Vice President Kardelj gained the impression during Nasir's visit to Yugoslavia that the Egyptian President had not expected the Iraqi coup.

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~