TOP SECRET

16 January 1963

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CENTRAL

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BULLETIN



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<u>Iraq:</u> Popular hostility toward the Qasim regime appears to be increasing, but Qasim's confidence in his own position remains unshaken.

Country-wide student strikes are continuing. They began on 20 December with clashes between Communist and Arab nationalist student demonstrators, and have been used by the regime as an excuse to move against anti-Qasim teachers and student leaders.

Troops have taken over Baghdad University. Over a thousand students reportedly have been imprisoned and many seriously injured. Communist students, however, are not participating in the strike and are being protected by the government.

Qasim's willingness to antagonize popular opinion by taking such harsh measures against students apparently stems from supreme confidence in his invulnerability.

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DAILY BRIEF

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