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30 January 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Research and Reports
THROUGH: Chief, Geographic Research *RM*
SUBJECT: Requested Comments on OCI Map 70000 "Graphic
Presentation of Middle East Oil Situation as
of October 1956"

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1. It is our understanding that this map was initiated by [REDACTED] the same likable and impetuous young man who wrote articles on oil in the Middle East in the OCI Weekly Reviews of 10 and 17 January 1957. These two articles, and in particular the maps that accompanied them were the subjects of memos to me from the Near East-Africa Branch, copies of which are enclosed.

2. Map 70000 appears to have taken considerable information from CIA 25338, a copy of which is enclosed, and a map by the magazine Oil Forum which periodically puts out a large scale map somewhat similar to Map 70000. The most recent Oil Forum "Map of Middle East Oil," dated November 1956, became available in December 1956 and the six copies ordered by D/GL at \$12.00 per copy have been very popular. [REDACTED] was issued copy #1 on 17 January 1957 and was reported as being highly enthusiastic about it. If it was a source for the preparation of Map 70000, it was not followed slavishly; more likely an earlier edition was used.

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3. Cartographically Map 70000 leaves much to be desired, probably due to production under forced draft. A more judicious selection of symbols, line weights, and of other information such as railroads and unnamed towns would have gone far to remove the cluttered appearance.

4. Ownership and control of oil properties is a fairly complicated picture and the map makes a good start at consolidating our company-relationship information for the area. For the Arabian Peninsula this information is already contained on CIA 25338, except for company affiliation #1 which has changed since research for the map was completed. However, we should note that Southern California Petroleum sold its interest in Sinai to Petrofina in August 1956 and the two concession areas of Morigui Exploration Company in Somaliland were taken over by

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Standard Vacuum Oil Company between February and August 1956. Continental Oil Company is the sole owner of Sahara Petroleum Company, which has an operating contract on concessions held by Continental, Ohio, Richfield, and Cities Service.

5. The following errors or omissions in information on oil have come to light as a result of an examination that was something less than exhaustive:

a. The information on Libya is incomplete in concession areas granted and on Egypt it is incomplete in both concession areas granted and in concession areas applied for. The Alexandria refinery has been omitted.

b. There appears to be ample room to show oil zones and possibly concessions in Turkey. Both of these are omitted.

c. The alinement of Tapline between southwestern Syria and the Iraq-Saudi Arabian Neutral Zone is incorrect.

d. The Basra refinery is not linked to Abadan by pipeline; the line shown has been removed.

e. In the Kuwait Neutral Zone, if the loading terminal at Mina Al Ahmadi is shown in the inset, then the one at Mina Al Abdullah should be shown also. In the northern part of the area shown on this inset are several errors in the number of pipelines shown between points.

f. The inset showing the Ain Dar area in Saudi Arabia should also show the rest of the Ghawar field to the south. On this inset the number of lines from Qatif to Ras Tanura is four rather than three, and from Dhahran to Bahrain the number is two rather than one. The town of Awali is the headquarters of the Bahrain Petroleum Company in central Bahrain, rather than on the coast of Saudi Arabia north of Ras Tanura.

g. A pipeline is under construction between Ras Tanura and Safaniya in Saudi Arabia. It will open in April 1957.

h. The Kavir Kurian concession in north central Iran has been given up by USSR although the actual signing of papers may have occurred after October 1956.

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- i. The J. W. Menhall concession does not cover all of Syria but consists of 300 sq. km. in northeastern Syria.
6. Some of the basic information, not closely connected with the oil industry, is also in error:
 - a. The railroad across Cyprus has been removed.
 - b. There is no railroad from Banias, Syria, southeastward to the unnamed town which is Homs.
 - c. The Egypt-Sudan boundary as plotted is a combination of the administrative and political boundaries which are shown correctly on CIA Map 13869, "Terrain and Transportation," dated January 1956.
 - d. The railroads under construction to Tabriz and Meshed, Iran, have progressed considerably farther than shown on the map.
 - e. The Hadramaut is a regional name for a part of Aden Protectorate. The boundary shown between Aden and the Hadramaut is not an international boundary. Incidentally, this line on the map is made up of three different symbols.
 - f. Likewise, Dhofar is part of Muscat and Oman and the boundary shown between them is not an international boundary.
 - g. If the name "Trucial Coast" is intended to represent a political entity, then it should not extend to the base of the Qatar Peninsula.
 - h. The Department of State has informed us that an international boundary should not be shown between Ethiopia and Eritrea.
 - i. The boundary between China and West Pakistan is in error.
7. Map 70000 makes very little contribution to the knowledge or presentation of oil information on the Middle East other than the lists of oil companies and the fact that it is unclassified.

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Enclosures: (3)

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1. Memo dated 7 Jan 57

2. Memo dated 16 Jan 57

3. CIA Map 25338

4. OCI Map 70000

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