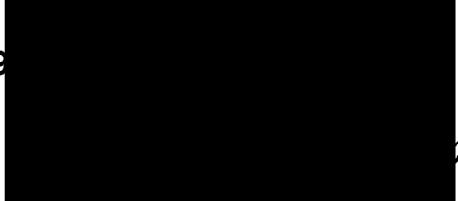


February 25, 1966

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917A

PLOT 2/25 DX
WITH GHANA
BY PETER LYNCH
UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

CPYRGHT

... (UPI) -- THE MEN WHO PLOTTED AND ENGINEERED THE OVERTHROW OF GHANA'S KWAME NKRUMAH WERE NOT GUERRILLA FIGHTERS SWEATING OVER THEIR PLANS IN A JUNGLE HIDEOUT. THE COUP WAS LAUNCHED BY STRATEGISTS IN SILK SUITS SITTING BEHIND CHINTZ-CURTAINED WINDOWS IN A LONDON TOWN HOUSE.

NUMBER 75 WEST CROMWELL ROAD, A THREE-STORY GEORGIAN STYLE RESIDENCE, SERVED AS HEADQUARTERS FOR THE GROUP WHICH OUSTED THE 56-YEAR-OLD NEAR DICTATOR.

INSIDE, ON THE GROUND FLOOR, MEMBERS OF THE GHANA REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL IN EXILE HAD BEEN METICULOUSLY PLOTTING FOR MONTHS THE END OF THE NKRUMAH REGIME.

KNOW AMIHYIA, ONETIME CHIEF OF GHANA'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE WHOM NKRUMAH HAS DESCRIBED AS "MY MOST DANGEROUS ENEMY," WAS THE CHIEF PLOTTER. HE SAYS HE RECEIVED HIS EARLY TRAINING FROM THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA).

CPYRGHT
FROM THE U.S.

AMIHYIA, ELEGANTLY DRESSED IN A SAVILE ROW-TAILORED SUIT, UNFOLDED THE DETAILED PLAN WHICH LED TO NKRUMAH'S CUSTER IN AN INTERVIEW WITH UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL.

"WE HAVE GOT HIM OUT AT LAST," SAID AMIHYIA. "GHANA CAN BE FREE AGAIN. THE ONLY THING WRONG IS THAT WE DID NOT GET NKRUMAH HIMSELF."

HE SAID THE COUP WAS IN THE WORKS FOR MONTHS, BUT WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO HAVE OCCURRED UNTIL NEXT AUGUST.

HOWEVER, WHEN NKRUMAH LEFT ACCRA LAST MONDAY ON AN INDEPENDENT VIET NAM PEACE MISSION TO COMMUNIST CHINA, HANOI ARMY OFFICERS WORKING FOR THE COUNCIL URGED THAT THE COUP TAKE PLACE WHILE THE PRESIDENT WAS OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

"WE AGREED," AMIHYIA RELATED, LOUNGING ON A SETTEE IN HIS WELL-FURNISHED OFFICE.

AS HE TALKED, THE SILK-SUITED AMIHYIA WAS FREQUENTLY INTERRUPTED TO ANSWER TELEPHONE CALLS FROM A EUROPEAN COUNTRY WHICH HE DECLINED TO NAME. THE CALLERS PASSED ALONG RADIO REPORTS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE COUP THURSDAY IN ACCRA.

"WE HAVE A RADIO WORKING IN ACCRA WHICH IS BEING PICKED UP IN A EUROPEAN COUNTRY," HE EXPLAINED. "THE REPORTS ARE THEN TELEPHONED THROUGH TO ME HERE IN LONDON. WE COULD NOT SET UP THE RADIO RECEIVING POINT HERE BECAUSE THERE MAY HAVE BEEN TROUBLE WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT."

CPYRGHT

AMIHYIA PRODUCED THE DETAILED BLUEPRINT FOR THE COUP. IT WAS MARKED "TOP SECRET" AND CARRIED THE CODE NAME "EXERCISE DAWN." THERE WERE FOUR SEPARATE OPERATIONS--PANTHER, COCKEREL LOCUST AND HOLDFAST.

PANTHER WAS THE INITIAL DAWN MILITARY TAKEOVER, LED BY BRITISH-TRAINED COL. E. K. KOTOKA, COMMANDER OF THE 2ND INFANTRY BATTALION AT KUMASI. HIS TROOPS WERE DEPLOYED NEAR THE CAPITAL ON MANEUVERS.