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*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DFI - Mr. Bernard Morris

DATE: January 13, 1959

FROM : DRN - Herbert Gordon 

SUBJECT: Comment on CIA Report, "The Communist Threat to Iraq", and Supplement, November, 1958.

DRN was pleased to receive the subject reports and particularly grateful for the opportunity to review and comment on them. The material in these reports is by and large available to us, although they do contain some information not in our files. Their usefulness primarily stemmed from the fact that they did collate information which is widely scattered in our files and thereby facilitated our estimates of the individuals concerned.

We recognized that the reports were not intended for final distribution and were to be limited to analysts with a broad knowledge of the history and workings of Iraqi politics. Such officers and analysts do read the reports with this background in mind. Thus, the fact that the reports concentrated on the communist or other leftist connections of the persons discussed did not preclude a balanced appraisal. However, it should be borne in mind that because of the intense interest in the Iraqi scene in all echelons of the Department, such reports may obtain a wider distribution than intended and as a result may lead to distorted evaluations.

We would suggest that this point, i.e., concentration on communist or pro-communist associations, be noted in other reports that may be prepared along this line so that the non-specialist who may have access to the paper will recognize that the full picture has not been presented.

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