



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Intelligence Briefing <sup>of</sup> for Mr. Truman, 30 July 1958

1. In accordance with your wishes, Mr. Truman was briefed on the World Situation by a representative of the Central Intelligence Agency on Wednesday morning, July 30, 1958, in Mr. Truman's office in the Library at Independence, Missouri. The briefing was based on a prepared text with emphasis on the Middle East and the Soviet Union.

2. Mr. Truman was most appreciative and repeatedly expressed his desire to be of assistance. In particular he stated his concern that his public statements be helpful and <sup>not</sup> harmful as they might be if he is not kept well-informed. I will endeavor to keep him so informed.

ALLEN W. DULLES  
Director

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31 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

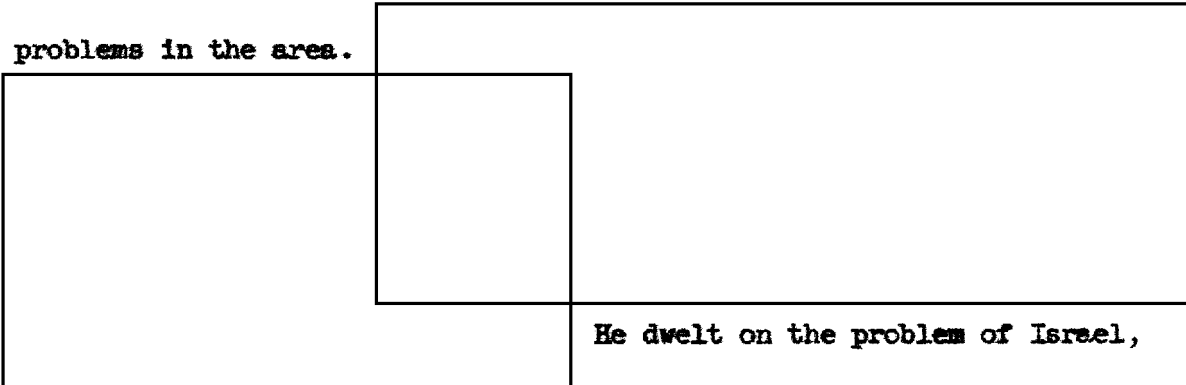
SUBJECT : Intelligence Briefing of Mr. Truman, 30 July 1958

1. Because of the late arrival in Kansas City of my plane, 4:35 p.m. instead of 3:20, I called Mr. Truman from the airport and asked if it was convenient for him to receive me as soon as I could get from the airport to the library. After some hesitation Mr. Truman asked me to meet with him at 9:00 the following morning, Wednesday, 30 July.

2. The briefing session Wednesday morning lasted from 9:00 to 10:20 and took place in Mr. Truman's private office in the Truman library building. The briefing was very well received. Mr. Truman's interest centered on Near Eastern problems and he read section I of the briefing in its entirety. He interrupted his reading frequently to ask questions, to make comments, to reminisce, and to exclaim over the discouraging developments in the area. He recognized the sensitive nature

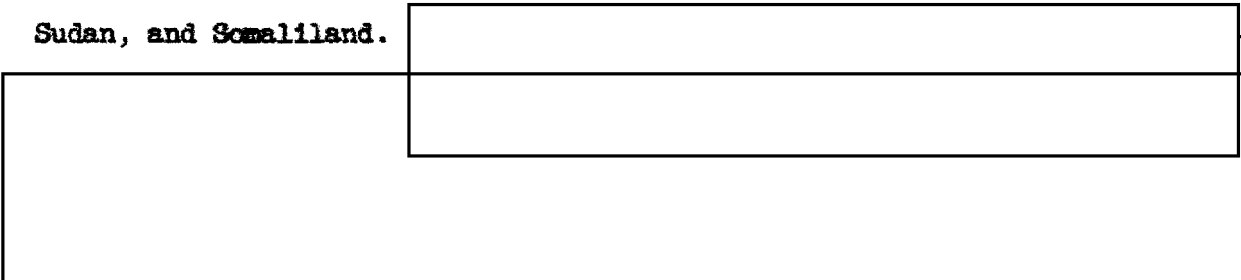
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of the information contained in the prepared briefing and expressed his appreciation for this information several times, assuring me that he understood the security problems involved. He was particularly interested in our evidence of the UAR's role in the Lebanese situation and related problems in the area.



He dwelt on the problem of Israel,

reading our prepared statement with unusual care. Likewise he slowed the pace of his reading when he came to Kuwait and to the problems of Ethiopia, Sudan, and Somaliland.



On several occasions Mr. Truman stressed the danger in Iran, illustrating his discussion by pointing to the long Soviet-Iranian border on the large globe that stood by his desk and recalling details of the Soviet incursion

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in Azerbaijan at the close of World War II.



3. I briefed Mr. Truman orally on the Sino-Soviet problem for it was apparent that he did not wish to read farther in the prepared text but instead wished to talk and ask questions. Where possible I referred him to sections in the text as part of my response to his questions and in this way Mr. Truman read our pages on Indonesia and on Latin America. Mr. Truman stated that the treatment Mr. Nixon had received in Latin America had made him hopping mad.

4. From Mr. Truman's comments it was apparent that he fully appreciated the likelihood of more crises involving bad news ~~in~~ not only in the Near East but elsewhere in the world of newly emerging nationalist states. It was his opinion that it will take an entire generation before these new states and some old ones as well such as those of Latin America will find themselves sufficiently stable and objective to appreciate the

danger of Communist totalitarianism.

5. Both at the beginning and at the end of the briefing Mr. Truman emphasized his concern about the President by being sufficiently well informed himself so that his public statements would be helpful and not harmful as might be the case if he were not informed. It was his determination to keep foreign policy out of domestic politics for in this realm all Americans must stand as one.

6. In reference to future briefings Mr. Truman indicated that he would appreciate being briefed whenever a crisis developed on which he might be asked by the press to make comments. I believe he intends to discuss this matter with you although I offered to make any arrangement then and there which Mr. Truman might desire.

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