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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
8 March 1963

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Syrian Coup

1. All evidence so far indicates that Nasir has been taken by surprise a second time within a month by an Arab coup.

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2. Today's Syrian coup is believed to have been supported from Iraq and to have derived its inspiration from the anti-Qasim movement carried out there on 8 February.

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3. Syria's new leaders are being very careful to hide their identities and have mentioned the name of only one of their military leaders--the chief of the Syrian security service.

4. Repercussions from the development in Syria will be felt in Jordan and Saudi Arabia. King Husayn almost certainly will regard it as a threat to his regime.

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Crown Prince Faysal of Saudi Arabia is likely to feel that his country is further imperiled.

5. Nasir, while quick to declare his support for the new regime, probably will regard it as a new threat to his goal of hegemony over the Arab world.

6. Israel will examine the situation from

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the point of view of what it does in the long run for Nasir's potential power in the Arab world.

7. Moscow has so far reported the coup in a factual manner but must regard it as another setback following that in Iraq.

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