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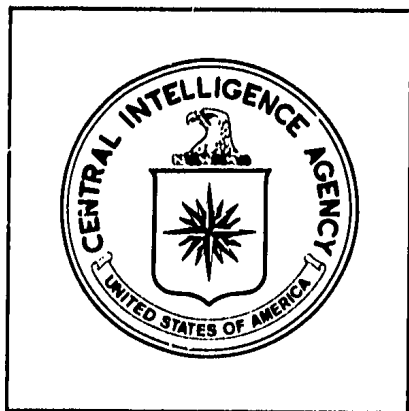
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MIDDLE EAST - AFRICA - SOUTH ASIA

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Sudan

Cabinet Change Strengthens Numayri's Position

The US embassy in Khartoum reports that the major reorganization of the Sudanese cabinet last weekend strengthened the position of President Numayri.


Although several of the ten dismissed ministers were dropped because of inept performance, Numayri's move was primarily intended to break the power of a group of independent-minded senior cabinet members. The removal of the finance and foreign ministers, for example, stemmed from Numayri's ire over their opposition to a presidential-backed development project. The influential finance minister had also recently been the target of corruption charges.

The governmental reorganization may also have been an attempt by Numayri to quiet popular grumbling over economic problems such as the rising prices of energy and other imports. Most of the government's development projects will require several years before they begin producing visible results. By bringing in new faces to direct economic policies, Numayri may hope to create an impression of acting forcefully to deal with Sudan's problems.

The cabinet shuffle appears to be a victory for the hierarchy of the government-controlled Sudanese Socialist Union, the country's only party, several of whose leaders have been made ministers. The party leaders have long been seeking to broaden their power base and increase party influence.

The US embassy believes that the governmental changes will probably have little effect on Khartoum's foreign policy and that Sudan will continue to be receptive to private foreign investment. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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Mozambique

Status Report

After four months in office, Mozambique's transitional government is moving smoothly toward independence, scheduled on June 25. The Portuguese-appointed high commissioner and the prime minister appointed by the black nationalists' Front for the Liberation of Mozambique appear to be cooperating closely. Along with other officials of the new government, however, they are maintaining a low profile.

In recent weeks, much of the government's time has been taken up with economic matters. A Portuguese economic delegation arrived on January 19 to discuss a number of economic issues including the establishment of a central bank of Mozambique and the future development of the Cabora Bassa hydroelectric project. The talks are likely to continue for some time. The United Nations has stationed a development representative in Lourenco Marques, and a UN economic survey team will visit Mozambique next month.

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economic specialists both in Lisbon and Lourenco Marques are encountering difficulties in collecting meaningful and reliable statistics that can be submitted to potential aid donors.

Public order has not been seriously disturbed since the short-lived outbreak of civil violence last October that was sparked by a clash between Portuguese commandos and troops of the Front. Portuguese forces are being withdrawn according to schedule and will be gone by June. Approximately 20,000 troops from the metropole were stationed there when the transitional government took over.

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[REDACTED] the government is also having difficulties finding qualified persons, either black or white, to replace white technicians and businessmen who have fled the territory since the transitional government came to power. The number of whites who have fled may now exceed 20,000. The government hopes that many whites will return if the security situation remains calm. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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Angola

Sign of a Split Among Liberation Groups

According to the US consul general in Luanda, the first public indication of a split in the front recently established by Angola's three liberation groups has surfaced. Last Friday, only a week before the scheduled installation of Angola's transitional government, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, the smallest of the liberation groups, issued a press release accusing unidentified "left-wing" opportunists of attempting to promote "anarchy and disobedience" in information, labor, and education. The obvious target of the attack is the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, the only leftist organization in the territory.

The National Union is undoubtedly worried about the strong political support enjoyed by the Popular Movement, primarily among urban workers. Although the National Union holds the labor portfolio in the transitional government, it will have a tough fight trying to undercut the Popular Movement's influence over Angola's labor force. The National Union is also concerned over the allocation to the Popular Movement of the information ministry, a position that will give it considerable opportunity to publicize its Marxist ideas and impede the propaganda efforts of the other two groups. The National Union holds the portfolio for education, but this is bound to be another area of intense competition. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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India-Iraq


Prime Minister Gandhi's Visit

Prime Minister Gandhi, during her visit to Iraq earlier this month, succeeded in getting Baghdad to drop its demand for cash payment for 2.8 million tons of Iraqi oil India is committed to import this year. The Indians reportedly stressed that from New Delhi's standpoint oil is the basis for its cooperation with Iraq. They said that without concessionary terms, India might buy elsewhere and may even withdraw Indian military advisers and technicians from Iraq.

Iraqi Baath party leaders and government officials, reportedly on the basis of this presentation, finally agreed to give India the same terms as in 1974. These terms, which saved India \$110 million, call for a small down payment at delivery followed by a five-year grace period and repayment over the next five years at 2.5 percent annual interest. The two sides also agreed to expand trade and to develop plans for more Indian technical assistance and training programs for Iraqis.

Both India and Iraq appear interested in continuing their longstanding cooperative relationship, but the lack of specific commitments beyond the oil deal and the bland communique suggest there are only limited prospects for closer economic ties. Moreover, last year India bought only 17 percent of its oil imports from Iraq, and New Delhi continues to buy the bulk of its oil imports from Iran and Saudi Arabia. (SECRET)

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