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COUNTRY ZANZIBAR

Mandatory Review

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SUBJECT

A CURRENT APPRAISAL OF THE ZANZIBAR SITUATION

PLACE & DATE ACQ. (LATE MARCH 1964)

REF

IN 47616

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL:

FIELD REPORT NO.

1.5(e)
3.4(b)(1)

1. THERE WERE TWO PARALLEL AND SEPARATE REVOLTS IN THE JANUARY ZANZIBAR COUP. IN ONE GROUP, HANGA, BABU, ABDUL AZIZ ALI KHAMIS TWALA, SALEH SAADALLA AKIDA, AND A FEW OTHER UMMA PARTY MEN WERE ORGANIZING ONE COUP. AT THE SAME TIME, EX-FIELD MARSHAL JOHN OKELLO HAD ORGANIZED A SEPARATE COUP WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HANGA/BABU GROUP.

2. PRESIDENT ABEID AMANI KARUME OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF ZANZIBAR (PRZ) AND MINISTER OF HEALTH ABOUD JUMBE MWINYI WERE PROBABLY NOT AWARE OF EITHER COUP PLAN UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE. OTHMAN SHARIFF MUSA WAS ALSO NOT INVOLVED IN EITHER COUP. SHARIFF, EX-MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SUSPECTED THAT THE HANGA/BABU GROUP WERE UP TO SOMETHING FOR WHEN SHARIFF URGED FORMATION OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT COMPOSED OF THE ZANZIBAR

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NATIONALIST PARTY (ZNP) AND THE AFRO-SHIRAZI PARTY (ASP). SALEH SAADALLA AKIDA, WITH WHOM SHARIFF WORKED IN OPPOSING KARUME'S ASP LEADERSHIP, OPPOSED THIS ACTION AND PROMISED SHARIFF HE WOULD BE A MINISTER WITHIN ONE MONTH.

3. IF OKELLO HAD NOT STAGED HIS COUP, KARUME WOULD NOT BE PRESIDENT, FOR THE HANGA/BABU GROUP WERE OPPOSED TO KARUME. ALSO, THE GOVERNMENT OF TANGANYIKA (GOT) WAS "FED UP" WITH KARUME PRIOR TO THE COUP. TANGANYIKA MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE, OSCAR KAMBONA, WAS WORKING WITH THE HANGA/BABU GROUP. KENYA MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS OGINGA ODINGA, TANGANYIKAN MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS JOB LUSINDE, AND [REDACTED] WERE ALSO AWARE OF THE COUP PLANS. KAMBONA SOUNDED OUT OTHMAN SHARIFF ABOUT 10 DAYS BEFORE THE COUP ON WHAT SHARIFF THOUGHT SHOULD BE DONE. AT THIS TIME SHARIFF RECOMMENDED A COALITION GOVERNMENT FOR ZANZIBAR. LATER KAMBONA TOLD AN UNIDENTIFIED PERSON THAT SHARIFF WAS A FOOL AND COULD NOT BE TOLD OF THE COUP.

1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

? 4. ARMS FOR THE HANGA/BABU COUP GROUP WERE SHIPPED TO TANGANYIKA FROM ALGERIA. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, JOHN OKELLO LED HIS COUP GROUP INTO ACTION, MAKING IT NECESSARY FOR THE HANGA/BABU GROUP TO JOIN OKELLO AND HIS FORCES.

5. MEMBERS OF THE HANGA/BABU GROUP WERE AT THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN DAR ES SALAAM JUST PRIOR TO THE ZANZIBAR REVOLUTION. ?

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1.5(e)
3.4(b)(1)

7. THABIT KOMBO GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ASP, IS POLITICALLY ONE OF THE STRONGEST MEN IN ZANZIBAR. HIS INFLUENCE AMONG THE PEOPLE AND HIS INFLUENCE OVER KARUME COULD EVEN RESULT IN HAVING BABU AND THE COMMUNISTS ELEMENT OVERTHROWN.

8. THE NEW FIELD MARSHAL WHO REPLACED JOHN OKELLO, YUSUF HIMIDI, WHO IS NOT POLITICALLY BRIGHT, IS AN AVID BACKER OF KARUME AND COULD BE COUNTED ON TO DEFEND KARUME'S INTERESTS. HIMIDI HAS 836 MEN AT HIS DISPOSAL, MANY OF WHOM ARE NOW DISARMED, BUT THE ARMS ARE HELD IN A DEPOT WHICH IS GUARDED BY MEN FROM HIS COMMAND. THESE GUARDS WERE SELECTED FOR THE JOB BY KARUME.

9. WHEREAS HIMIDI IS LOYAL TO KARUME, CHIEF OF THE ZANZIBAR SECURITY POLICE ALI MAHFUDH MOHAMED IS JUST AS LOYAL TO BABU. MAHFUDH CONTROLS ABOUT 200 MILITARY POLICE. HIMIDI'S FORCE OF 836 MEN, HOWEVER, ARE A FORMIDABLE COUNTERBALANCE TO MAHFUDH'S MEN.

END OF MESSAGE

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