

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

10 April 1958

Jordan-Iraq

Jordanian and Iraqi leaders continue to move at a leisurely pace in organizing their Arab Union. The lengthy preparations afford Nasir's propagandists more opportunity to assert the existence of serious differences between King Husayn and King Fay-sal over their future roles. The earliest possible date for the new structure to be formally inaugurated now seems to be sometime in June. The Iraqis in particular are probably still considering ways by which Kuwait with its oil income might be brought into their federation; the recent visit of an Iraqi emissary to Saudi Arabia may have been to seek Saudi reaction to such an attempt.

The Jordanians may face a crop failure if April rains do not materialize, and are seeking American and Iraqi assistance against this eventuality. Foreign Minister Rifai has explained that he is somewhat reluctant to seek such aid from Iraq, since an Iraqi grant might increase opposition to the Arab Union on the part of those Iraqis who argue that Jordan is merely an economic and political liability. The Iraqis have already refused to guarantee an IBRD loan to Jordan.