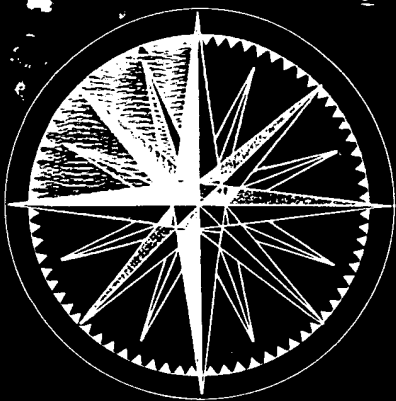


**SECRET**



6 December 1963

OCI No. 0309/63

Copy No. 77

# WEEKLY SUMMARY

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

RETURN TO RECORDS CENTER

IMMEDIATELY AFTER USE

JOB 79-7-927 BOX 43

~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

43-228525

**SECRET**

GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and declassification

THIS MATERIAL CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS, TITLE 18, USC, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, THE TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF WHICH IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.

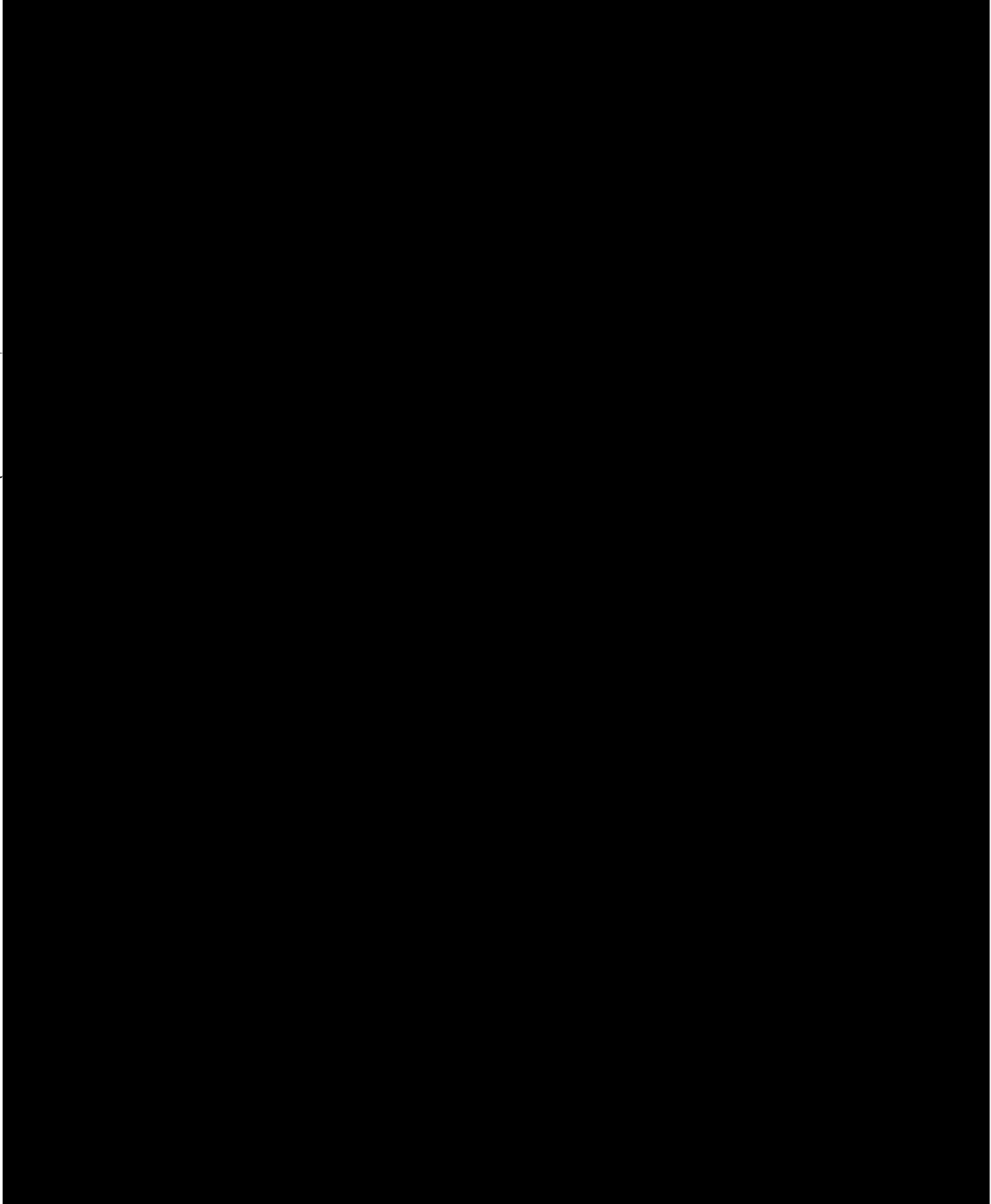
#### DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

This document MUST NOT BE RELEASED TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. If marked with specific dissemination controls in accordance with the provisions of DCID 1/7, the document must be handled within the framework of the limitation so imposed.

~~SECRET~~

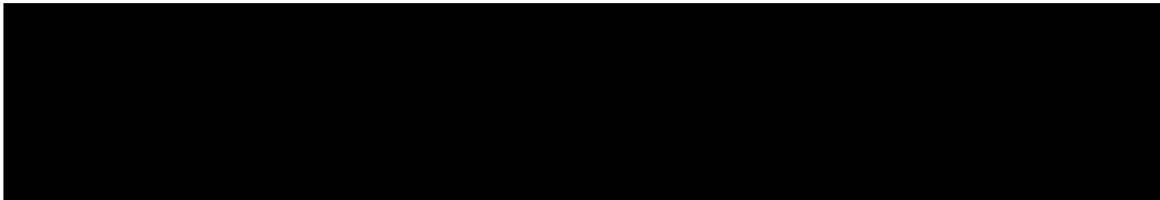
C O N T E N T S

(Information as of 1200 EST, 5 December 1963)



~~SECRET~~

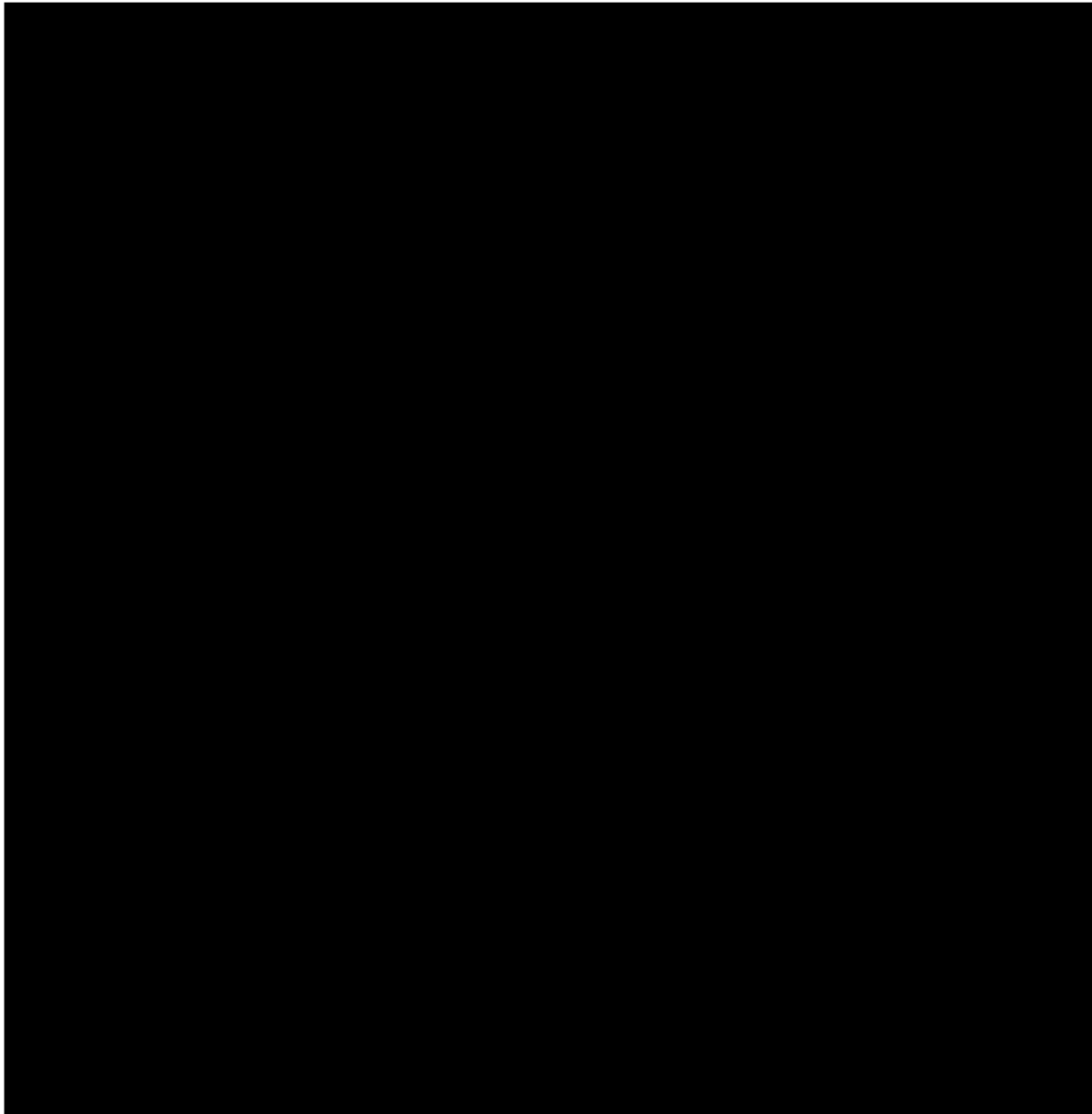
~~SECRET~~



POWER STRUGGLE CONTINUES IN IRAQ AND SYRIA

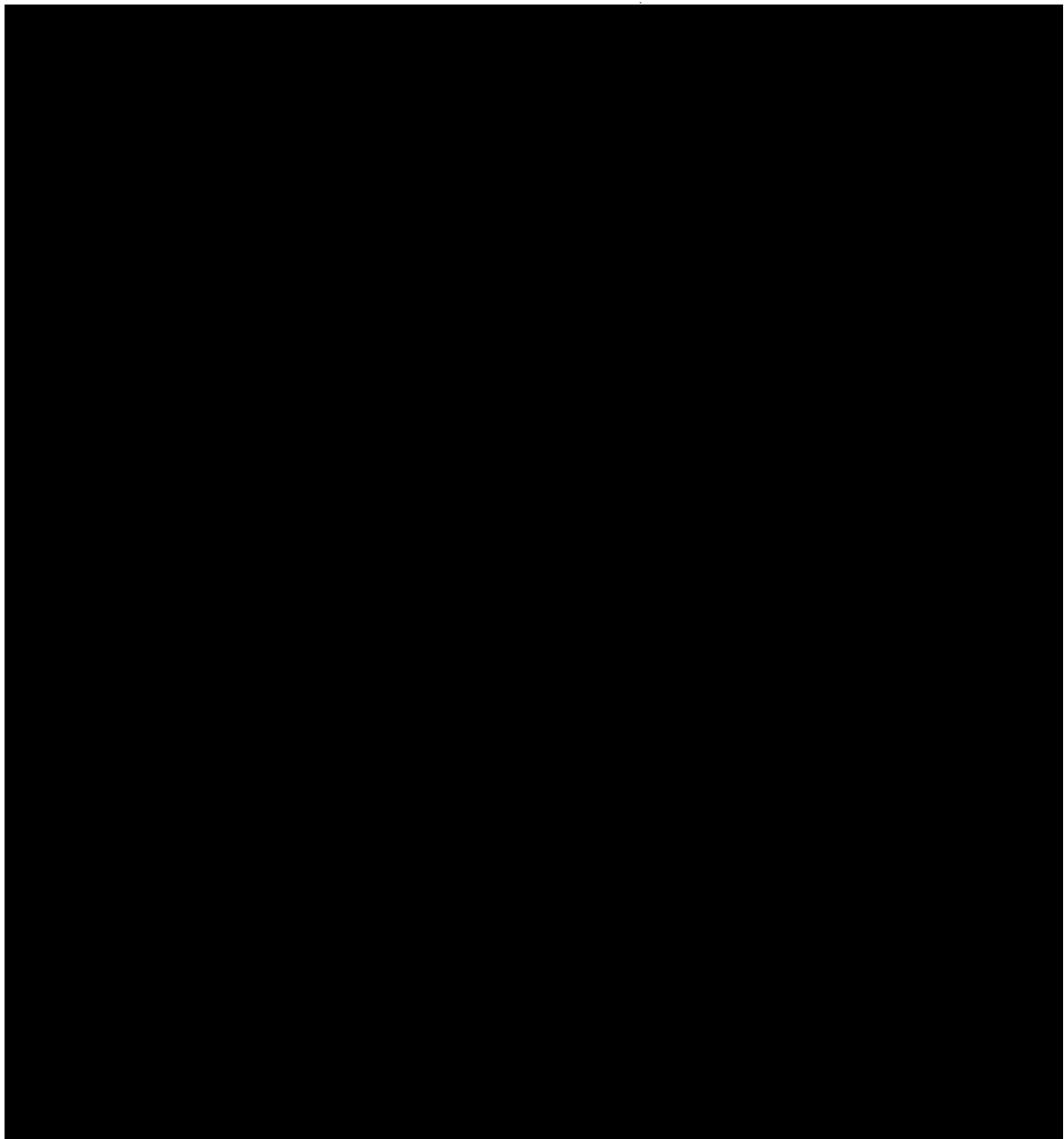
11

Baathist influence is being reduced in the Iraqi regime, and the Baathist premier of Syria seems on the verge of breaking with party extremists.



~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Asia-Africa

### POWER STRUGGLE CONTINUES IN IRAQ AND SYRIA

Political alignments in both Syria and Iraq continue to shift rapidly as contending factions compete for power, and sudden upheavals are possible in both countries. Reactions in either country to events across the border are likely to complicate the picture further.

In Iraq, anti-Baathist officers and members of the government have begun to eliminate Baathist influence in the regime. The minister of communications, a leader of the moderate faction of the Baath Party, has been eased out of office and exiled to Beirut with several associates. Baathist Vice President Bakr is also said to be leaving the country. Hardan Tikriti, a strong Baathist who heads the Defense Ministry, has requested a British visa.

Pressures for a move against Baathists still holding positions of power have been growing among "Arab nationalist army officers and government officials desiring closer relations with Cairo. President Arif has apparently acquiesced in the action against the Baath, but his role in the move is not yet clear.

The anti-Baathist faction now appears to have the upper hand, but the fate of 4th Division Commander Nasrat, a dedicated Baathist, is not certain. He reportedly has surrounded

Baghdad with troops in the expectation of a showdown. If he still retains his command, he may attempt to redress the present situation.

A decay of the Baathist position in Iraq is almost certain to undermine further the position of the party in Syria, where Premier Hafiz, a military member of the Baath international command, appears on the verge of breaking with party extremists. He reportedly has halted the activities of the national guard--the Baath's paramilitary wing--and is casting about for support from traditional Syrian political elements, as well as from the military. Several conservative politicians have been freed from custody in the past few days.

While Hafiz' actions are reported to have infuriated doctrinaire Baathist Major General Umrán, who is deputy premier, Interior Minister Atasi, a long-time party member, is said to have resigned and to have denounced Umrán as well as Hafiz as opportunists. Umrán has not been seen for several days, and there are rumors that Hafiz is attempting to remove him from his position. Baath' Party founders Aflaq and Bitar have asked for visas to go abroad, and the US Embassy believes that a coup is developing. [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~