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## II. ASIA-AFRICA

### Middle East Situation (as of 0400 EDT 16 July)



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Inside Iraq, the army coup group apparently is consolidating its hold over the country. Former Prime Minister Nuri Said is reported by several sources to have been caught and either shot or hanged on 15 July. There is still no firm information on the whereabouts of King Faysal. Both the American and British ambassadors, in separate interviews on 15 July with the new prime minister, Brigadier Abdul Karim Qasim, and other officials of the regime, were assured that measures would be taken to protect the lives and property of British and American citizens and that, if necessary, safe conduct for evacuation would be provided. The officers were somewhat reluctant to provide the latter assurance, but protested friendship for both Britain and the United States. This

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is also demonstrating enthusiasm. Both of the developments appear ominous to the British position in the Persian Gulf oil area.

A general atmosphere of public calm prevails in Israel, although there is obvious intense concern for the immediate future of Jordan and the eventual possibility that an Egyptian-dominated ring may close around the country.

Prime Minister Ben-Gurion has stated, however, that Israel is now prepared to ask the United States for arms, planes, and antisubmarine weapons since, unless the Iraqi coup is crushed, Israel will be in "mortal danger!"

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surface attitude almost certainly has been adopted in the hope of parrying Western intervention against the regime. At the same time, the regime has formally denounced the Arab Union between Iraq and Jordan; similar action regarding Iraq's agreement with Britain and the Baghdad Pact may be delayed until the regime is more firmly in control.

There are some indications that the Iraqi rebels have not yet determined the loyalty of troops guarding the northern oil fields and the Habbaniya airfield, but intend to take over by force if necessary. The latter move would be a logical one to secure a means of receiving support from Cairo through Damascus and to deny the base to any intervening air-borne force.

In Jordan, King Husayn's government has tightened security measures and has suppressed demonstrations in West Jordan in favor of the Iraqi coup. The mood of the radical nationalist opposition in Amman is jubilant, although some opposition sympathizers have stated that the chances of a coup seem slight unless the leaders of the Baath party return to the country. The Iraqi composite brigade stationed in Jordan was allowed to return to Iraq on 15 July after its officers had threatened to shoot their way out unless permission were granted. Some sixty Iraqi staff officers in Jordan on an inspection tour are also to be released. The Jordanians apparently expect some kind of Turkish action; a Turkish aircraft arrived in Amman on 15 July, ostensibly to evacuate former Iraqi Chief of Staff Arif if he should still be there. Ankara continues to emphasize its belief that Jordan must be supported directly to the fullest extent.

Pressure in favor of the Iraqi coup has developed quickly in Kuwait. The acting ruler, who is in charge while the actual ruler is visiting in Damascus, has made a minor show of force in the face of popular parading of Iraqi flags with shouts of "long live the Iraqi Army." Reports have been received that Bahrein

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