

**166*

TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

SECRET (When Filled In) **CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS**
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

COUNTRY **IRAQ** REPORT NO. []

SUBJECT 1. **KIRKUK AIRFIELD AND SECOND DIVISION SUPPORT OF THE REVOLT** *(Commander of Air Force)* DATE DISTR. **12 FEBRUARY 1963**
2. **CAPTURE OF JALAL AWQAT AT RASHID AIRFIELD** PRECEDENCE **PRIORITY**

DATE OF INFO. [] REFERENCE IN **66401**

PLACE & DATE ACQ. []

APPRAISAL []

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. AFTER BEING INFORMED THAT THE COUP D'ETAT AGAINST PRIME MINISTER QASIM HAD BEEN ACTUATED DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 8 FEBRUARY, THE DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE SECOND DIVISION IN KURKUK, HASAN MUSTAFA, INFORMED THE DIVISION COMMANDER, BRIGADIER MAHUMAD ABD-AL RAZZAQ AND ASKED FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE COUP. WHEN IT WAS REFUSED, THE COMMANDER WAS PLACED UNDER ARREST. IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS, MAJOR HARDAN TIKRITI, COMMANDER OF AIR OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN IRAQ, TELEGRAPHED THE REBELS THAT KIRKUK AIRBASE HAD BEEN SECURED AND HAD JOINED THE SIDE OF THE REBELS.

SECRET **CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS**
NO FOREIGN DISSEM GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

STATE/INR DIS ARMY/ACSI NAVY AIR JCS SECDEF NSA NIC AID USIA OCI ONE OCA ORR OBI OO EXO
STATE/DIR

TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

FORM 1K OBSOLETE PREVIOUS EDITIONS.

17

(b)(1)
(b)(3)
(b)(1)
(b)(3)
(b)(1)
(b)(3)
(b)(1)
(b)(3)

SECRET
(When Filled In)

CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

IN 66401

PAGE 2

TIKRITI AND TWO OTHER AIRFORCE PILOTS THEN PILOTED 3 MIG-17S TO BAGHDAD FOR ATTACKS ON RASHID AIRFIELD AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE BUILDINGS. [REDACTED] REBEL TANK UNITS DEPARTED HABBANIYAH FOR BAGHDAD AT 0400 HOURS, 8 FEBRUARY.)

2. THE 3 MIG-17S FROM KURKUK WERE JOINED BY TWO HAWKER HUNTERS FROM HABBANIYAH AIRFIELD. THESE REBEL PLANES FIRST BUZZED RASHID AIRFIELD WARNING GROUND CREWS NOT TO ATTEMPT TO PREPARE ANY PLANES FOR TAKE-OFF. HOWEVER, BRIGADIER JAMIL AWQATI, THE COMMANDER OF THE IRAQI AIR FORCE, WAS AT RASHID AIRFIELD AT THE TIME AND IMMEDIATELY ORDERED FOUR COMMUNIST MIG-19 PILOTS TO ATTEMPT TO GET THE MIG-19S IN THE AIR AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. WHEN THE REBEL PILOTS NOTICED THIS GROUND CREW ACTIVITY DURING THEIR SECOND PASS OVER THE AIRFIELD, THEY STRAFFED THE MIG-19'S AND BOMBED THE RUNWAYS. SUBSEQUENTLY, TWO MIG-17S AND THE TWO HAWKER HUNTERS BEGAN THEIR POKET AND MACHINE GUN ATTACK ON THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE BUILDING.

3. THE THIRD MIG-17 CIRCLED RASHID AIRFIELD TO PREVENT ANY AIR OPPOSITION FROM THE AIRFIELD. SIMULTANEOUSLY, AN UNIDENTIFIED TANK REGIMENT AT CAMP RASHID BEGAN AN ATTACK ON GOVERNMENT UNITS AT THE CAMP AND AIRFIELD WHICH HAD DECIDED TO RESIST THE COUP ATTEMPT. REBEL TANKS WERE ALSO PLACED AT THE END OF RUNWAYS TO PREVENT ANY PLANE FROM TAKING OFF. THE TANK ATTACK CONTINUED

SECRET

CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

NO FOREIGN DISSEM(b)(1)
(b)(3)(b)(1)
(b)(3)

CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

~~SECRET~~
(When Filled In)

~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

IN 66401

PAGE 3

UNTIL THE EVENING OF 8 FEBRUARY WHEN GOVERNMENT UNITS AT THE AIR-FIELD SURRENDERED. BRIGADIER AWQATI AND THE FOUR COMMUNIST PILOTS WHO HAD ATTEMPTED TO FLY THE MIG-19S ALSO SURRENDERED. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, CAMP RASHID WAS THE LAST TO SURRENDER TO THE REBELS.)

4. [REDACTED] A LIEUTENANT WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ATTACK ON THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS REPORTED THAT THE LATE PRIME MINISTER'S ARMED GUARD AT THE MINISTRY HAD PUT UP A WELL FOUGHT BATTLE. IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE MORNING OF 9 FEBRUARY THAT THE REBEL FORCE COULD ENTER THE MINISTRY. THIS SAME OFFICER SPECULATED THAT THE LATE PRIME MINISTER COULD HAVE HELD OUT FOR AT LEAST 10 DAYS HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE REBEL AIR ATTACKS ON THE MINISTRY BUILDING.)

5. [REDACTED] ONE OF THE REBEL PLANES CRASHED WHILE ATTACKING THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IT WAS ONE OF THE MIG-17S INASMUCH AS OBSERVATIONS DURING THE LATE MORNING AND EARLY AFTERNOON OF 8 FEBRUARY INDICATED THAT ONLY TWO MIG-17S AND TWO HAWKER HUNTERS WERE INVOLVED ON THE AIR ATTACKS ON THE MINISTRY. DURING THIS SAME PERIOD NO OTHER PLANE COULD BE OBSERVED CIRCLING RASHID AIRFIELD.)

6. [REDACTED]

END OF MESSAGE

CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

~~SECRET~~

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

(b)(1)
(b)(3)