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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	IRAQ	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]	(b)(1)
SUBJECT	[REDACTED] REPORT ON THE IRAQI COUP <i>as attached</i>	DATE DISTR.	9 FEBRUARY 1963	(b)(3)
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	PRECEDENCE	PRIORITY	(b)(1)
PLACE & DATE ACQ.	[REDACTED]	REFERENCES	IN 65157	(b)(3)
APPRAISAL	[REDACTED]	FIELD REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]	(b)(1)

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

SOURCE [REDACTED] (b)(1) (b)(3)

1. [REDACTED] (b)(1) (b)(3)

2. THE 6TH ARMORED BRIGADE, BAGHDAD, STARTED THE REVOLT IN IRAQ ON MORNING ON 8 FEBRUARY, BEGINNING BY TAKING CONTROL OF THE WEST BANK OF THE RIVER. THIS UNIT HAD ABOUT 53 OFFICERS RETIRED 10 DAYS EARLIER BECAUSE OF THEIR ANTI-QASIM ACTIVITIES. THEN THE MILITARY UNIT AT CAMP RASHID, ON OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE RIVER IN BAGHDAD ALSO JOINED THE COUP.

3. FRIDAY WAS PICKED FOR REVOLT BECAUSE SENIOR OFFICERS WERE LIKELY TO BE ABSENT FROM THEIR UNITS ON THIS DAY. MOST OFFICERS HEADING AND SUPPORTING THE COUP ARE YOUNG.

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GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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4. THERE WERE ONLY TWO UNITS OR GROUPS OF UNITS WILLING TO FIGHT FOR QASIM--ONE IN THE WAR MINISTRY, THE OTHER, AN AIR FORCE UNIT, POSSIBLY TECHNICAL AT CAMP TAJI, NEAR BAGHDAD. LATTER SURRENDERED FRIDAY AT 1730 HOURS LOCAL TIME.

5. [REDACTED] QASIM FRIDAY AFTERNOON IN STREET, SURROUNDED BY GROUP OF OFFICERS.

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6. IRAQI GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO STAY AWAY FROM WORK, EXCEPT IN CERTAIN ESSENTIAL FIELDS SUCH AS POWER HOUSE, WATER PUMPING, AND COMMUNICATION INSTALLATIONS. SUCH WORKERS GIVEN PHONE NUMBER TO CALL TO DETERMINE IF THEY NEEDED. THOSE REQUIRED FOR WORK BEING PICKED UP AT HOUSES BY GOVERNMENT VEHICLES IN ORDER TO ASSURE SAFE PASSAGE THROUGH STREETS.

7. STRUGGLE WITH QASIM FORCES STILL GOING ON 9 FEBRUARY. PRO-QASIM ELEMENTS EXIST AMONG WORKERS, AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, AND COMMUNISTS. SOME FIGHTING STILL GOING ON IN BAGHDAD WITH COMMUNISTS.

8. COUP APPEARS TO BE 80 PER CENT IN FAVOR OF BATH PARTY, WHICH IS MUCH DIVIDED, MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE EXACT ALIGNMENT REVOLUTIONARY REGIME TOWARD NASIR.

9. MILITARY UNITS OUTSIDE BAGHDAD WHICH HAVE NOT OPPOSED REVOLT, GIVE IMPRESSION OF WATCHFUL WAITING PENDING CLARIFICATION OF SITUATION. THIS IS TRUE OF UNITS DISPOSED IN KURDISTAN AND BASRA.

10. TWO MINISTERS IN NEW CABINET ARE KURDS, BABA ALI, MINISTER OF

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AGRICULTURE; AND GENERAL FUAD ARIF, MINISTER OF STATE AND A LEADING MEMBER OF KURDISH DEMOCRAT PARTY. MOST OF THE NEW MINISTERS ARE MOSUL RESIDENTS, SUGGESTING THAT SPECIAL EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO EFFECT RECONCILIATION WITH KURDS. HOWEVER, IT IS UNCERTAIN THAT ALL KURDISH DEMANDS WILL BE MET.

11. TANKS ARE PATROLLING BAGHDAD AND FIRING OCCASION SHOTS IN THE AIR TO IMPRESS THE POPULATION. THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF AMBULANCE TRAFFIC INDICATING MANY WOUNDED AT THE SCENES OF ACTUAL FIGHTING.

12. TOO EARLY TO ACCEPT COUP AS SUCCESSFUL AND NEW REGIME FIRMLY ESTABLISHED. HOWEVER FAVORABLE INDICATIONS ARE FAILURE OF ANY MILITARY UNITS TO COUNTERATTACK ON QASIM'S BEHALF: OCCUPATION OF STRATEGIC PLACES IN BAGHDAD BY INSURGENTS: REPLACEMENT OF GENDARMERIE, POLICE, AND NATIONAL GUARD HEADED BY BATHISTS.

13. [] COMMENT: IT IS UNREASONABLE AT THIS STAGE TO THINK THAT NEW IRAQI GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK UNION WITH EGYPT, BUT BETTER RELATIONS WITH NASER CAN BE PREDICTED. ALSO, A LESS FAVORABLE RELATION WITH IRAN CAN BE EXPECTED)

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14. FIELD DISSEM STATE ARMY NAVY AIR CINCSOUTH (PERSONAL)
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END OF MESSAGE

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