REPORT BELK CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Taw GIRRIS U.S.C Sec This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of th 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law the Espio __DAVIS CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS SECRET * (When Filled In) IRAQ COUNTRY REPORT NO. ASSEN 1203UFF BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON THE PRESIDENT SUBJECT DATE DISTR. 10 FEBRUARY AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT KLEIN OF IRAQ PRIORITY PRECEDENCE HUMEK 50X1, E.O.13526 LEGERE FEBRUARY 1963 DATE OF REFERENCES INAMA INFO. SAUNDERS PLACE & SCHLESINGER DATE ACQ. WIESNER FIELD REPORT NO. NQB-3781 APPRAISAL THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. SOURCE COMMENT: 50X1, E.O.13526 1. ON 8 FEBRUARY 1963, ABD-AL-SALAAM MUHAMMAD ARIF WAS "ELECTED" PRESIDENT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ BY THE NATIONAL (NCRC) COUNCIL FOR REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND. ARIF'S PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING BATH PARTY OF IRAQ FOR AN ANTI-QASIM COUP WAS FIRST SOLICITED BY THE BPI/REGIONAL IRAQI LEADERSHIP (BPRL) IN EARLY APRIL 1962. AT THAT TIME, AD HOC BPI DEMONSTRATIONS DESIGNED TO SHOW VISITING ALGERIAN PREMIER BEN BELLA THAT QASIM WAS NOT THE SOLE POLITICAL POWER IN IRAQ HAD DEVELOPED INTO A SHOW OF BATHIST STRENGTH WHICH SURPRISED EVEN THE BPRL AND RALLIED UNEXPECTED SUPPORT FROM THER NATIONALISTS. IN APRIL, ARIF OUTLINED A COURSE OF ACTION WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY

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DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL, E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2012-118, document no. 1 **DECLASSIFICATION DATE: July 8, 2015**

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Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C., section 403g)

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	CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS	
	SECRET (When Filled In) * PAGE 2	1 5
526	FOLLOWED BY THE BPRL, CULMINATING IN THE 8 FEBRUARY 1963 TANK	
0.13526	ATTACK ON THE DEFENSE MINISTRY COMMENT: *	
E.	PLANNING FOR AN APRIL 1962 COUP WAS INTERRUPTED BY THE ARREST OF	
50X1	BPI BAGHDAD BRANCH, LATER BPRL , LEADER MUHSIN SHAYKH RADHY,	× × v
_	AND ALL KEY LEADERS OF THE BPI ORGANIZATION IN THE SECURITY	*
	AND POLICE SERVICES IN LATE APRIL 1962. IN THE COURSE OF THE FOLL-	٠
	OWING TWO MONTHS, BPRL LEADERS DECIDED THAT ARIF REPRESENTED A	,
	SECURITY HAZARD BECAUSE HE TENDS TO TRUST ANYONE HE LIKES WITH	*
	POLITICAL SECRETS. THEY ALSO WERE AWARE OF ARIF'S PREDILECTION	
	FOR DEMAGOGUERY. IN THE PLAN DEVELOPED FOR A COUP TO BE STAGED	٠
ř	IN JULY 1962, ARIF WAS SLATED TO BECOME ONE OF A THREE-MAN	9
	PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL WITH MUHAMMAD MAHDI KUBBA AND BRIGADIER	
26	NAJI TALIB, WITH THE REAL POWER TO BE VESTED IN A REVOLUTIONARY	
0.13526	COUNCIL, HEADED BY BRIGADIER AHMAD HASAN BAKR AS PRIME MINISTER.	
E.	(COMMENT: THE JULY COUP PLAN WAS CANCELLED ON	
50X1	15 JULY. WHEN COUP PLANNING WAS RESUMED BY THE BPRL IN NOVEMBER	4
_	1962, ARIF WAS NOT CONSULTED. HOWEVER, WHEN THE FORM AND COMPOSITION	
	OF A NEW GOVERNMENT WAS DRAWN UP BY THE BPRL ON 12 DECEMBER 1962; FOR	\$
	A COUP TO BE STAGED ON 20 DECEMBER 1962, ARIF WAS SLATED, WITHOUTE.	
526	HIS KNOWLEDGE TO BECOME INTERIM PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND A	
0.13	MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE, PENDING RESTORATION]
50X1, E.O.13526	OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. (COMMENT: * ATTITUTE.	
	CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS	
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CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

SECRET

(When Filled In)

PAGE

3

TIME, IT WAS THE BPRL INTENTION TO RESTRICT ARIF TO THE PERFORMANCE OF A CEREMONIAL ROLE, WHILE USING HIS NAME AND CHARISMA TO ATTRACT SUPPORT FROM NATIONALIST AND PRO-NASIR ELEMENTS. THE FACT THAT ARIF HAS BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND, FORMED ON 8 FEBRUARY 1963, MAY BE REGARDED AS AN INDICATION THAT THE BPI IS NOT SO BEHOLDEN TO PRO-NASIR OR OTHER NON-BATH OFFICERS FOR THE SUCCESSFUL EXECUTION OF THE FEBRUARY COUP THAT IT NEED INCLUDE ARIF IN THE NCRC WHICH WILL GOVERN THE EXECUTIVE BODY. AT THE SAME TIME, IT CAN SAFELY BE ASSUMED THAT THE BPRL HAS RESPECT FOR ARIF, BOTH AS A DRAWING CARD WITH THE POPULACE AND AS A POTENTIAL DEMAGOGUE. THE BPRL WILL PROBABLY REFRAIN FROM EXCLUDING ARIF ALTOGETHER, A COURSE WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE SO FAR AS BPI SECRETARY GENERAL ALI SALIH AND HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATES ARE CONCERNED.

2. ALSO ON 8 FEBRUARY, THE NCRC ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WITH BRIGADIER AHMAD HASAN BAKR AS PRIME MINISTER. WITH REGARD TO BAKR, IN SEPTEMBER 1958, QASIM'S MILITARY POLICE MADE A LITTLE KNOWN ERROR WHICH WAS TO CONTRIBUTE TO QASIM'S DEMISE. THEY PLACED TWO ARMY OFFICERS WHO HAD EACH ATTEMPTED TO STAGE LIGHTENING COUPS AGAINST QASIM IN THE SAME JAIL CELL. THE JUNIOR OF THE TWO, THEN MAJOR SALIH MAHDI AMMASH, RECRUITED THE SENIOR, BRIGADIER AHMAD HASAN BAKR, INTO THE BPI. HAVING

SECRET

CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

Withheld under statutory authority of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C., section 403g)

CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

SECRET

(When Filled In)

PAGE

4

DEPLETED THE NATIONALIST SIDE OF THE CAREFUL BALANCE, HE WAS WONT TO KEEP IN THE OFFICER CORPS, IN THE WAKE OF THE ABORTIVE BPI/UAR SPONSORED SHAWAF MUTINY IN MOSUL IN 1959 QASIM MADE HIS SECOND MISTAKE BY RESTORING AMMASH AND BAKE TO ACTIVE DUTY, THE FORMER AS OPERATIONS OFFICER OF THE IRAQI AIR FORCE AND THE LATTER AS OFFICER COMMANDING THE NINETEENTH BRIGADE. ALTHOUGH BAKR WAS RETIRED SUBSEQUENTLY, HIS SKILL IN ORGANIZING CLANDESTINELY AND THE RESPECT IN WHICH HE WAS HELD BY HIS MEN PROVED INVALUABLE TO THE BPI ARMY BUREAU - SO MUCH SO THAT IN FEBRUARY 1963 THERE WERE STILL EIGHTEEN BPI OFFICERS ORGANIZED IN QASIM'S OWN OLD BRIGADE -THE NINETEENTH, WHOSE CORGANIZATION AUNTO BRIE CEELS DATED BACK TO THE TIME OF BAKR'S COMMAND. BAKR'S MITE WAS USED BY THE BPI ARMY BUREAU IN ORGANIZING FOURTH ARMORED REGIMENT COMMANDER KHALID MAKKI AL HASHIMI, WHO LATER ORGANIZED THE BATH CELLS IN THAT REGIMENT WHICH, IN TURN SPEARHEADED THE 8 FEBRUARY COUP. IS, IF ANYTHING, HELD IN GREATER RESPECT BY THE BPI CIVILIAN ORGANIZERS OF THE COUP THAN BY HIS MILITARY FOLLOWERS. FIFTY YEAR OLD CAREER SOLDIER, HE IS BELIEVED BY THE BPRL TO HARBOR NO PERSONAL AMBITION, AND TO HAVE A DEEP ROOTED PERSONAL BELIEF IN THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRATIC CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. BAKE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY BPRL MEMBERS AS MODEST, STRAIGHT FORWARD AND LOYAL. ALTHOUGH BAKR HAS NEVER HELD AN IMPORTANT BPI OFFICE, AND THUS

CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

SECRET

Withheld under statutory authority of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C., section 403g)

	CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS		14
SECRET		in 653	45 ·
(When Filled In)		PAGE	5

APPEARS SOMETHING OF A FIGUREHEAD, HE WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE THE AGE, EXPERIENCE, AND LEADERSHIP WHICH MIGHT MAKE AN EFFECTIVE PRIME MINISTER. IF, AS HAS HAPPENED TWICE IN SYRIA, THE YOUTHFUL LEADERS OF THE BATH BEGIN TO DISPLAY INERTIA AND PREDILECTION TO SEEK PERSONAL POWER ONCE THEY HAVE EMERGED FROM THE UNDERGROUND IN WHICH THE PARTY HAS OPERATED FOR SO LONG BAKR MAY HAVE THE STRENGTH TO HOLD THE NEW GOVERNMENT TOGETHER AND, BY DOING SO, EMERGE AS A TRUE PRIME MINISTER.

3. DISSEM STATE, ARMY, AIR, CINCNELM, CINCSOUTH (PERSONAL)

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CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

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