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OCI No. 3613/62

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
11 December 1962

Rush

Kuwait

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Nasir's Threat to Kuwait

1. There is little likelihood of a successful Egyptian effort to overthrow the Kuwaiti regime, at least as long as the Kuwaiti Ruler, Shaykh Abd Allah Ibn Salim al-Sabah, lives. The great majority of Kuwaitis, including Arab nationalists, are largely satisfied with the status quo and have little urge to subordinate themselves to Egyptian rule or share their country's wealth with other Arab states.

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2. The Ruler, at 60, suffers from several ailments, [redacted]

however, he could live for some years. Upon the Ruler's death, Arab nationalists in Kuwait might shift to a more active pro-Nasir attitude and consider an anti-regime coup, since his heirs command scant respect and loyalty.

3. Kuwaiti Arab nationalists are torn between their pan-Arab aspirations, which Nasir seems to personify, and their own pocket-book and political interests in Kuwait. During the past year, they have gained considerable political freedom and participation in the government. The benefits they have derived from Kuwait's general prosperity also have tended to cool their ardor for radical measures. The recent student demonstrations in honor of visiting Algerian "heroes" were turned into anti-government manifestations by Egyptian teachers, rather than by local Arab nationalists.

4. While pro-Nasir sentiment in Kuwait has surged up in the past few weeks, this has been a by-product of sympathy for the Yemeni revolution and of hostility to the intervention of the Saudi and Jordanian rulers. It does not reflect dissatisfaction with the regime in Kuwait.

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5. Nasir's current activities consist of low key propaganda attacks against the Sabah family, propaganda and some agitation by the large number of Egyptian teachers in Kuwait, and encouragement of demonstrations against the ruling family by Kuwaiti students in Egyptian schools.

6. On balance, Nasir's capability to carry out anti-regime action in Kuwait appears minimal. So far as is known, he has no significant influence in Kuwait's security forces, and Kuwait's geographical separation from Egypt precludes military intervention. Kuwaiti security authorities, however, are reported to believe that some pro-Nasir conspiracy is brewing and several suspected leaders have been placed under surveillance.

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