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Kurds
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McGB:

June 17, 1963

Fat is now in the fire on Kurdish business, and it's time for us to choose up sides.

Moscow is publicly backing the Kurds, and Nasser tacitly. Iranians, who can't distinguish one Arab from another, are privately giving Kurds a little help because they fear a Nasserite Iraq. Turks more sensibly see that present Iraq regime is best insurance against Nasser, and as always fearful of repercussions on their own Kurds (2 million) are strongly pro-Iraqi. UK is ambivalent; it would like to see Qassim-type situation revived, in which IPC would not be too much harassed by a weak Iraqi regime.

Despite our sympathy for the poor Kurdish nationalists (victims of cold war), our security interests along northern tier simply demand keeping Kurds damped down. Otherwise, Sovs get a new opening in Iran, Iraq, Turkey. State basically agrees with this policy, but as so often waffles it. We need to:

1. Meet official Iraqi request for some plane loads of ammo (we can send in black). 50X1
50X1
2. Beat up Shah on this issue, where he's simply buying trouble for himself. He's got to cut off supplies to Kurds.
3. Get Kurds to join us in working on Shah. They've done a bit already, but not enough.

If State waffles too much, I'll devise a WH needle longer than I've used yet.

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