

JANE SCHNELL
OCI
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4 DEC 63

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ROUTINE

86711

ORLN LOND ANWA ABDI BERN MADR ANKA ALGI BOMF PARI
 MUNI BAGR KHAR LISS COPE NASO BEIR LEOP MEXI FROE NEWD
 DAMA RABA NOBI HAGU VIEN KAH1 TPLI SAGO HEID ATHE JIDD
 TNIS CYRU TEHE CNBR OSLO CAIR MOGA RACY GNVA BOME PRAX

RELAND

NEAR EAST - AFRICA BRIEF

(INFO IN SLANTS. REMAINING INFO RELEASEABLE TO LIAISON.)

1. IRAQ: //SHARP COMPETITION FOR POWER IS HAMPERING THE NEW IRAQI REGIME'S ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH ITSELF FIRMLY.//

//ANTI-BAATHIST ARMY OFFICERS ARE STILL UNHAPPY OVER THE ROLE THAT BAATHISTS PLAY IN THE REGIME. A NON-BAATHIST FACTION IN THE GOVERNMENT IS PRESSING FOR REDUCTION OF BAATHIST INFLUENCE AND FOR THE ARREST AND TRIAL OF LEADERS OF THE EXTREMIST BAATH FACTION.//

//PROBABLY AS A RESULT OF THIS PRESSURE, BAATHISTS ARE BEING ELIMINATED FROM KEY POSITIONS IN THE INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY SERVICES, A NEW ARMY DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF HAS BEEN APPOINTED, AND A NUMBER OF ARMY OFFICERS RETIRED.//

//AN ARMY BRIGADE CONSIDERED LOYAL TO FROE ARIF HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO BAGDAD TO COUNTER THE INFLUENCE OF THE BAATHIST-LED 4TH DIVISION.

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WHICH HAD A MAJOR PART IN THE 18 NOV COUP. THERE HAS BEEN NO WHOLESALE PURGE OF BAAHISTS IN THE ARMY, AND GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN REITERATE THE LINE THAT THE COUP WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ANY PARTY.//

//BAAHISTS IN THE GOVERNMENT, HEADED BY DEFENSE MINISTER HARDIN TIKRITI AND VICE PRESIDENT BAKR, REPORTEDLY ARE PRESSING FOR GRADUAL RESUMPTION OF BAAHIST CONTROL AND FOR CONTINUATION OF BAAH POLICIES. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ TIKRITI IS ALSO REPORTED TO BE PROTECTING BAAHISTS ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ARRESTED BY SECURITY OFFICIALS.//

//PRESIDENT AFIF AND PREMIER TAHIR YAHYA ARE TRYING TO MAINTAIN A NEUTRAL POSITION. YAHYA BELIEVES THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION MAY EVENTUALLY LEAD TO ANOTHER COUP.//

2. SYRIA: //POLITICAL TENSION IN SYRIA HAS INCREASED CONSIDERABLY DURING THE PAST THREE DAYS AND A COUP MAY BE DEVELOPING. BAAHIST PARTY FOUNDERS AFLAQ AND BITAR HAVE ASKED FOR VISAS TO GO ABROAD, WHILE SEVERAL CONSERVATIVE LEADERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM CUSTODY. THERE ARE ALSO INDICATIONS THAT ATTEMPTS ARE BEING MADE TO OUST BAAHIST VICE PREMIER GENERAL UMRAN.// (CONF)

3. IRAN: //THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO BE CONCERNED OVER ALLEGEDLY NABIRIST OR ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ BAAHIST AGITATION AMONG ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

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IRANIAN ARABS IN SOUTHWESTERN IRAN. THERE ARE THAT ARAB NATIONALIST ACTIVITIES THERE ARE RECEIVING OUTSIDE SUPPORT.//

//SAVAK, THE IRANIAN SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION, REPORTEDLY ARRESTED ABOUT 100 ARABS IN KHUZESTAN PROVINCE ON 26 NOV, AND THE ROUNDUP IS CONTINUING. LOCAL ARAB DISSIDENT ACTIVITY HAS APPARENTLY BEEN UNDER CLOSE WATCH FOR SOME TIME, BUT THE LARGE NUMBER OF ARRESTS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ORDERED FROM TEHRAN, WHERE THERE IS AN EXAGGERATED APPREHENSION OVER ARAB "UNITY" MOVEMENTS.//

(CONF)

4. TURKEY: PRIME MINISTER INONU'S COALITION GOVERNMENT RESIGNED 2 DEC AFTER 17 MONTHS OF UNREST AND INSTABILITY.

INONU'S RESIGNATION WAS PRECIPITATED BY THE DEFEAT OF THE TWO MINOR PARTIES IN HIS COALITION BY THE OPPOSITION JUSTICE PARTY (JP) IN THE RECENT LOCAL ELECTIONS. PRESIDENT GURSEL HAS ASKED INONU'S CABINET TO STAY ON UNTIL ANOTHER CAN BE FORMED. AFTER INONU'S FIRST COALITION COLLAPSE IN JUNE 1962 NEARLY A MONTH PASSED BEFORE HE WAS ABLE TO PULL TOGETHER A NEW GOVERNMENT.

SOME LESS CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE MAY BE CHOSEN TO TAKE THE LEAD THIS TIME. DISCUSSION OF A NEW COALITION HAS CENTERED ON TWO

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POSSIBILITIES--A "NATIONAL" GOVERNMENT INCLUDING NEARLY ALL PARTIES, OR A COMBINATION OF THE JP AND THE RULING REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY.

5. CYPRUS: //GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADERS EVIDENTLY ARE NEAR A SHOWDOWN OVER THE QUESTION OF REVISING CYPRUS' CONSTITUTION.//

PRESIDENT MAKARIOS HAS FORMALLY GIVEN VICE PRESIDENT KUCUK, THE LEADER OF THE TURKISH COMMUNITY, A MEMORANDUM PROPOSING EXTENSIVE MODIFICATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS WHICH THE TURKS REGARD AS GUARANTEEING THEIR MINORITY RIGHTS. TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADERS, SUPPORTED BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, HAVE CONSISTENTLY REJECTED ANY SUCH MODIFICATIONS.//

//MAKARIOS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED THAT HE ULTIMATELY MIGHT ACT UNILATERALLY TO CONVOKE A CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY IF THE TURKISH COMMUNITY REFUSES TO AGREE TO HIS BASIC DEMANDS. HE INSISTS THESE ARE ESSENTIAL IF CYPRUS IS TO HAVE A WORKABLE GOVERNMENT.//

//THE ALREADY STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS WILL DETERIORATE RAPIDLY IF MAKARIOS ACTUALLY MOVES TO OVERRIDE THE TURKS' OPPOSITION. BOTH GREEK AND TURKISH COMMUNITIES HAVE PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE REPORTED READY TO ACT

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