

JAMES POWELL  
OCI  
7292  
9 DECEMBER 63

SECRET

BOOK MESSAGE IN BRIDGE

*[Handwritten signature]*

ROUTINE

87787

BRLN	[Redacted]
MUNI	[Redacted] MEX I [Redacted]
[Redacted]	FRAN

PBSAND

NEAR EAST - AFRICA BRIEF

(INFO RELEASABLE [Redacted] NO NOFORN IN THIS MESSAGE)

1. SYRIA: THE POWER STRUGGLE WITHIN THE SYRIAN REGIME AP-  
PEARS TO BE RESOLVING IN FAVOR OF THE MODERATE FACTION LED BY  
PREMIER HAFIZ

EFFORTS BY HAFIZ, A MILITARY MEMBER OF THE BAAATH PARTY, TO  
ASSOCIATE THE REGIME WITH NON-BAAATH POLITICAL ELEMENTS HAVE GAINED  
MOMENTUM, AND BAAATHIST EXTREMISTS LED BY VICE PREMIER UMRAN WHO  
OPPOSE THIS MOVE ARE BEING ECLIPSED. GENERAL UMRAN STILL OCCUPIES  
HIS GOVERNMENTAL POST, HOWEVER, AND DESPERATE COUNTERACTION BY HIM  
AND HIS SUPPORTERS IN THE ARMY AND THE BAAATH-DOMINATED NATIONAL  
GUARD CANNOT BE COMPLETELY DISCOUNTED.

THERE IS ALSO A POSSIBILITY THAT PRO-BAAATH GROUPS WILL TRY TO  
EXPLOIT THE DIVISION WITHIN THE REGIME BY ATTEMPTING TO SEIZE POWER.

(COPY)

END OF MESSAGE

SECRET

J.C. GRAHAM

*[Handwritten signature]*  
J.B. CASTLE

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