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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
Office of the Director

23 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Subject: Situation Report on Middle East (U)

Attached hereto is Situation Report No. 10 (Middle East)
covering the period 0400, 22 July 1958 - 0400, 23 July 1958.

For the Director

Paul D. Phillips
PAUL D. PHILLIPS
Colonel, USA
Staff Assistant



EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs

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SITUATION REPORT NO. 10 (MIDDLE EAST)

Period Covered: 0400 22 July 1958 - 0400 23 July 1958

SUMMARY

1. The situation in Lebanon remains calm.
2. Force BRAVO in Germany has been placed on a 12 hour alert. Force ECHO (Tank Battalion) will sail from Bremerhaven for the objective area.
3. Hussein has requested the United States to reconsider its decision of not sending troops to Jordan.



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SITUATION REPORT NO. 10 (MIDDLE EAST)

Period Covered: 0400 22 July 1958 - 0400 23 July 1958

Maps: Map, Middle East

1. ENEMY

a. Soviet Ambassador Pegov advised Shah of Iran on 19 July 1958 that entry of United States or British troops in Iran, enroute to Iraq would cause immediate Soviet invasion of Iran.

2. U.S. AND ALLIED SITUATION (All time is Eastern Daylight Time. Lebanon and Jordan time is six hours later than EDT).

a. U. S. ARMY

(1) Summary of U.S. Ground Forces:

(a) Force ALPHA in Beirut, strength now 1720.

(b) Force BRAVO on 12 hour alert in Germany subject to call by CINCSPECOMME, strength 1723.

(c) Force CHARLIE (Combat & Service Support) strength 1632. 44% departed from Europe for Beirut.

(d) Force DELTA (Service Support) strength 4411. Moving to ports of embarkation in France and Germany.

(e) Force ECHO (Tank Battalion) strength 668. Loading at Bremerhaven.

(2) CINCSPECOMME approved shipment of entire force ECHO according to plan.

(3) Airlift of Force CHARLIE to Beirut within 8 days is acceptable to CINCSPECOMME for current operation in this area.

(4) CINCUSAREUR has advised CINCSPECOMME that an HONEST JOHN Battery, a portion of Force DELTA, will depart Bremerhaven about 24 July and arrive in the Middle East about 3 August.

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b. U. S. NAVY

(1) Task Force 61 unloading hampered by 5 foot surf. As of 1200, 21 July 1958, Task Unit 61.1.4 was 25% unloaded. Commander Task Force 61 has established fire and rescue parties in all ships for movement to beach on 10 minutes notice and has also established fire fighting boats around the clock at the Pocono, because of fire hazard in port and beach areas. Vehicles for UN observers arrived in USNS COL WM. Y. OBRIEN.

c. U. S. MARINE CORPS

(1) Strength of Marines now at Beirut (2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines; 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines; 1st Battalion, 8th Marines) 6300.

d. U. S. AIR FORCE

(1) Airlift force CHARLIE cargo 51% complete, force CHARLIE personnel 31% complete as of 1000, 22 July 1958.

(2) The Composite Air Strike Force at Adana, Turkey and the NORAD and SAC alert status remains substantially as in the previous reports.

e. ALLIED

(1) UK Forces.

(a) Headquarters Third Infantry Division being airlifted to Cyprus beginning morning of 21 July. None of Division Units are accompanying the Headquarters, which is to remain at Cyprus. The "Kings Own" moving to Aden. Headquarters 24th Brigade moving to Bahrein (Persian Gulf). Total United Kingdom troops in Bahrein now 1000. The 45th Royal Marine Commandos are moving to Tobruk instead of the Sussex. The Sussex will remain as reserve on Malta.

(b) U. S. Army Attache Amman, Jordan reports total British Forces at 3500 instead of 5000.

(2) TURKEY.

(a) The Chief of Turkish General Staff forwarded

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to the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army a plan for the invasion of Syria and Iraq. This plan required United States to furnish air cover and some technical material assistance. He requested a reply by 22 July 1958, regarding the United States attitude toward the plan. Subsequently he stated he hoped for a reply prior to 26 July 1958. General Taylor replied on 22 July that the plan is being discussed with appropriate political leaders. In view of important policy implications, the United States position will be furnished to the Turkish Government through appropriate governmental channels.

3. GENERAL INFORMATION

a. Tankers CLYDE EXPLORER and WIDAD with POL for Jordan estimate Aqaba 1500, 22 July 1958.

b. SUDAN:

[redacted] Nasser is planning a coup in Sudan within two weeks. As a result of disaffection within the Prime Minister's own Umma Party, he may be forced to form a "National" Government including members of opposition parties. This would result ultimately in a pro-Egyptian type of neutrality. However, Khalil has not wholly abandoned his earlier idea of staging a "temporary" military coup.

c. IRAQ:

(1) Two of the three men reported writing a constitution for Iraq are Leftists although not known to be pro-Leftist. The rebel government is continuing its protestations of friendship for the West but has taken the precautionary measure of towing two barges into position in the Shatt-al-Arab for use, if necessary, in blocking access to the oil ports of basra (Iraq) and Abadan (Iran).

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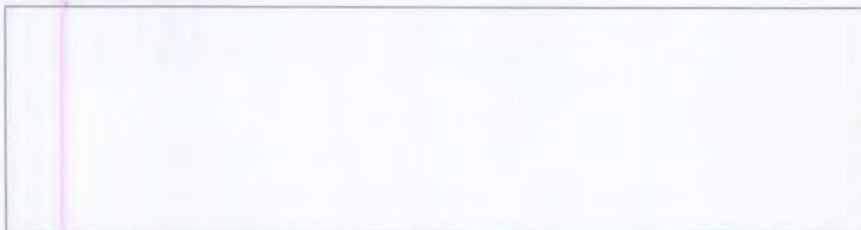
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(2) For evacuation of non-combatants, the Iraqi Government has authorized two flights by Pan American July 23 with possible approval of an additional flight Friday or Saturday. The Iraq Government has given its approval for any press correspondents with proper credentials to enter Iraq via Baghdad on any of the Pan American flights mentioned above. Negotiations are continuing to gain authorization for three flights per week to Baghdad using scheduled flights to Andara.



e. JORDAN:

(1) King Hussein has requested that the United States reconsider its decision not to send US forces into Jordan under the present circumstances. Hussein denies any intentions to use the Jordanian Army against Iraq but maintains that he needs 7,000 United Kingdom and United States troops plus United States aircraft to assist in the maintenance of internal security. However, the United States Ambassador suspects that a plan for Jordanian support of Turkish, Iranian and Pakistani intervention in Iraq is being worked out and that Hussein desires ample Western troops committed to Jordan so that he will be free to use his own troops in support of such a venture.

(2) Amman is calm and almost a dead city after dark due to POL shortage. Following rumors of killing of a British soldier, armed British patrols made a show of strength with extreme negative reaction among even the conservative

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Jordanians. Baghdad radio claims strikes and demonstrations in Jordan have spread to Amman and that the British have taken over security of the Palace at Hussein's request. In retaliation for Jordan's break in relations with UAR, UAR has refused permission to Jordan Airlines to overfly Egypt and Syria until further notice. Service to Beirut and Cairo is now suspended but continues to Aden.

f. SYRIA

(1) Syrians moved reinforced battalion to vicinity of Alauat and dug in. Some Syrians in Southern Syria are reported deserting and being forced toward Jordan border by regular troops. All Bedouins in immediate vicinity of Jordan, between police posts and border, have been moved out.

(2) Syrian soldiers have moved into the Danish Hospital grounds at Nablus. The Danish Consul General is protesting the violation of generally accepted rules of international law against use of hospital grounds for military use.

g. EGYPT

(1) The United States Air Attache in Cairo reports persistent rumors of mobilization of reserves and National Guard. There are no firm reports of general mobilization as during Suez crisis. Radio Cairo is noticeably less violent but Anti-American feeling has never been stronger. Additional police have been placed around the United States Embassy. At Alexandria three W class submarines, 3 motor torpedo boats and a frigate have been active during the past three days. Anti-aircraft and anti-tank guns are being placed and soldiers are digging in along the coast in the Alexandria area.

h. IRAN

(1) Teheran is reported flooded with rumors of the

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release of Kurdish tribal chiefs from prisons in Baghdad and their return to Northern Iraq for the purpose of leading Kurdish elements in a Free Kurdistan movement which would furnish the USSR with an excuse for direct intervention in the Middle East area.

i. TUNISIA

(1) After an initial period of hesitation Bourguiba has informed the United States and British Ambassadors that since the Sudanese Government has accorded recognition to the Iraq Republic, Tunisia would have to recognize them without waiting for United States and United Kingdom reactions. He had earlier explained that Tunisian recognition would demonstrate that the Iraq revolution was not entirely an Egyptian Communist affair and that the new regime was not an outcast. He believes that this would assist the West in re-establishing relations with Iraq.



j. TANGIER

(1) Disapproval of American action in Lebanon is being shown by most Moroccans. Moroccans could now be described as Anti-American not only because of the briefings by the principal political party along this line, but probably as a result of many situations, there is an actual growing hostility.

k. LIBYA

(1) Benghazi continues calm and no anti-Western incidents have been reported. The Libyan Army is reported as not on the alert and completely apathetic. A reliable source stated that 150 British Marine Commandos are proceeding from Tobruk to Benghazi overland and that an additional 550 will come by sea.

l. LEBANON

(1) The situation in Beirut remains relatively calm with the dropping of leaflets producing a favorable press reaction.

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