Routine

Intelligence Information Cable

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DIST 28 AUGUST 1970

COUNTRY IRAQ/ THE PERSIAN GULF

DOI AS OF 28 AUGUST 1970

SUBJECT PLANS OF A PLOTTING GROUP LED BY SHI'A MUSLIMS TO ATTEMPT THE
OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ ABOUT MID-SEPTEMBER

ACQ (28 AUGUST 1970)

SOURCE

SECRET/NO FOREIGN

1. MUHAMMAD JA'FAR A L- NUMAYRI, A SHI'A MUSLIM
FROM BASRAH, IRAQ, WHO CLAIMS HE IS A FORMER IRAQI MINISTER,
IS INVOLVED IN AN ANTI-COMMUNIST COUP PLOT AGAINST THE GOVERN-
MENT OF IRAQ, WHICH IS LED BY THE SHI'A MUSLIMS, AND IS TO BE
ATTEMPTED ABOUT MID-SEPTEMBER. AL-NUMAYRI HAS BEEN WORKING IN
ABU DHABI AND DUBAI. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: AL-NUMAYRI IS
PROBABLY IDENTICAL WITH ONE MUHAMMAD AL-NUMAYRI WHO WAS RE-
PORTED BY FBIS ON 22 JANUARY 1970 AS HAVING RECEIVED A DEATH SENTENCE IN ABSENTIA BECAUSE OF HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE 22 JANUARY 1970 ABORTIVE COUP AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ. WE HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON AL-NUMAYRI AND ARE NOT ABLE TO VERIFY THAT HE IS A FORMER MINISTER.)

2. ACCORDING TO AL-NUMAYRI, THE SHI'A IS FED UP WITH THE BA'TH REGIME'S DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THEM. AL-NUMAYRI SAID HE HAS SUPPORT FROM SHAYKH ZAYID OF ABU DHABI; TARIQ BIN TAYMUR OF OMAN; IMAM MUSA AL-SADR, SHI'A LEADER OF LEBANON; AND THE AGHA KHAN, LEADER OF THE SHI'A ISMA'ILIS. AL-NUMAYRI IS WORKING WITH THE "ISMA'ILI OFFICE" IN BEIRUT. IT IS PLANNED TO ATTEMPT THE COUP IN MID-SEPTEMBER BECAUSE THE IRAQI REGIME IS SHAKEN BY INTERNAL DISPUTES, AND THE REGIME WOULD NOT KNOW WHO IS STRIKING AT THIS TIME, I.E., THE UAR, IRAN, KUWAIT, OR SAUDI ARABIA.

3. AL-NUMAYRI, WHO WAS IN POSSESSION OF IRAQI AND ABU DHABI PASSPORTS AND A BUSINESS CARD FROM BAGHDAD, SAID THAT INCLUDED IN THE PLOTTING GROUP ARE FORMER MINISTERS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, ENGINEERS, AND MILITARY OFFICERS. ONE OF THOSE INVOLVED IS MAHMUD HASAN JUMA', A FORMER IRAQI MINISTER, WHO IS AN ADVISOR TO SHAYKH ZAYID OF ABU DHABI AND JUMA' IS COORDINATING ABU DHABI AND OMANI AID TO THE PLOTTERS. THESE GULF
LEADERS WANT TO COUNTER THE ACTIVITIES OF THE IRAQI REGIME IN THE PERSIAN GULF. AL-NUMAYRI PLANS TO STAY IN BEIRUT UNTIL 1 SEPTEMBER, THEN HE PLANS TO GO TO KUWAIT AND ENTER IRAQ FROM KUWAIT.

4. AL-NUMAYRI DOES NOT PLAN TO INFORM SAUDI ARABIAN OR IRANIAN OFFICIALS, BUT HE DOES PLAN TO INFORM THE KUWAITIS "SOON." HE PLANS TO SEE THE KUWAITI RULER IN BEIRUT. AL-NUMAYRI ALSO IS IN TOUCH WITH KURDISH LEADER MULLAH MUSTAFA A L - B A R Z A N I. AL-NUMAYRI SAID HE IS WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER 'ABD-AL-RAZZAQ N A Y I F, BUT ONLY AT THE LAST MINUTE, BECAUSE NAYIF IS NOT TRUST-WORTHY (SIC). (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: NAYIF HELPED THE BA'THIS GAIN POWER IN MID-1968 AND WAS EXILED TWO WEEKS LATER BY THE BA'TH REGIME.)

5. AL-NUMAYRI CONTACTED A SYRIAN ARMS DEALER ON URGENT BASIS ON 28 AUGUST BECAUSE OF AL-NUMAYRI'S NEED FOR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES THE ARMS DEALER HAD IN A WAREHOUSE. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: THE SOURCE DID NOT SAY WHETHER HE HAD PROVIDED THE EXPLOSIVES.)

6. DISSEM: STATE CINCMEAFSA.