

DDQC#6 1980

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT (Continued)

Joint Chiefs of Staff (continued)

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Report. Apr. 9, 1956.
1979.

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- A. [Near East] Middle East Roundup (Week Ending 11 May 1956). Transmittal Memorandum, Adm. Edwin T. Layton, Dep. Dir. for Intelligence, Joint Staff. May 11, 1956. 1 p. Att: Same title [Hammarskjold defines the major problems in the Near East as the Sinai, Suez Canal blockade of Israeli shipping, Jordan River divergence, and the refugee problem (Israel gives the harvesting of Israeli crops by Gaza refugees as the basic reason for shelling of Gaza city); Hammarskjold is pessimistic and prefers US-UK-French and Soviet diplomatic pressures on the Arab states and Israel to the convening of an SC meeting; Israel is receiving additional aircraft from France and is maintaining its armed forces at a high level of mobilization. Jordan is the only Arab state to withdraw its forces from the border; Egypt has received additional bloc aircraft. In Greece the govt. is fighting for its life; the hanging of Cypriots has set off riots and the cabinet is faced with pressures to break relations with the UK. In Iran the elections to the 19th Majlis are proceeding; most new deputies are taking the place of Zahedi adherents and assertive liberals. The Pakistani PM will travel to China at a time when an intense domestic power struggle may unseat him]. Memorandum, Col. Charles E. Phipps, Current Intelligence Unit, Joint Intelligence Group, to Adm. Edwin T. Layton. 4 p. SECRET. SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED. NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS. Declassified Sept. 5, 1978. Released 1979.
- B. [Near East] Petroleum and the Middle East Crisis [the closing of the Suez Canal will result in a rise in tanker and petroleum prices, initiation of rationing in Europe, supply of US military in Europe from refineries in the Gulf Coast and Caribbean, requests from Europe for diversion of oil stocks intended for US military in Europe, and a rise in the price and in European purchases of US coal]. Memorandum, DDCM-223-56, Gen. Alfred H. Johnson, Dep. Dir. for Logistics, Joint Staff, to the Chairman, JCS. Nov. 5, 1956. 2 p. CONFIDENTIAL. Declassified Nov. 27, 1978. Released 1979.

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Issue 1956 (80)



THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C.

11 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Subject: Middle East Roundup (Week ending 11 May 1956)
Enclosure: Copy of Subject Report.

Included herewith is the weekly Middle East Roundup which has been prepared for my information. I am forwarding a copy to you in a matter of information and interest.

Very respectfully,

[Redacted]
EDWIN T. LAYTON
Rear Admiral, USN
Deputy Director for Intelligence
The Joint Staff

Copy to:
J.S.S.C.
Director, Joint Staff
OSO, OSD
Spec Asst to JCS for NSC Affairs
Spec Asst to JCS for MDA Affairs
Dep Dir for Strat Plans
Dep Dir for Log Plans
Director, WSEG
Director, Communications-Electronics
Chief, J.S.A.D.
Chairman, J.M.E.P.C.

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DATE: Sept. 12, 1971

file

Copy No. 1 of Series "A"

RECORDED
10 MAY 1956

Washington, D. C.

11 May 1966

CHARLES WALTER EDWARD DAYTON

NOTICED: FIELD EAST, BOUNDARY (took meeting 11 May)

FBI - WASH D.C. 20535

1. There has been a marked increase in the number of incidents taking place on the Israel-Jordan border. The Jordanians are again attacking Gaza strip refugees of Jayyus, the Jordan camp just beyond the border. This "illegal" leave has by the Arabs was given by the Jordanians as one of the better reasons for the shelling the city of Gaza.

2. Mr. Hammarskjold defines the danger around in the Middle East in this order: El Khuja-Saint; Suez Canal blockade of Israeli shipping; Jordan water problem; and the refugee problem. Hammarskjold was pleased with his temporary success, but is basically pessimistic. He does not dare to return to the Middle East, nor does he actually want a Security Council meeting. Hammarskjold believes that the three powers (US-UN-France) and later the USSR, must exert diplomatic pressure on the Arab States and Israel to resolve the problem listed above. Although Mr. Hammarskjold places the Jordan water as the third problem, we believe that, unless the Israelis get concrete evidence of obtaining water soon, they will dig. The time of digging could very possibly be tied to the border situation. Should the border remain relatively quiet, we foresee no digging; upon resumption of frequent border skirmish, digging will resume.

3. Israel is receiving additional aircraft from France. 18 Mysteres IV aircraft have already been delivered, with 6 more due to leave France in a week or two. The Israeli press has announced that France will furnish 82 Mysteres (an inflated figure).

4. Israel is maintaining her armed forces at a high level (110-115,000) -- the only demobilization observed has been in a few second line administrative units.

5. The only Arab State to withdraw troops from the Israeli border was Jordan. Just after Hammarskjold left, Jordan withdrew 10,000 (Arab Legion) of her 30,000 troops on the Israeli border to the west bank of the Jordan.

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6. Some Arab newspapers have launched a bitter attack on U.S. policy of asking Allies to supply arms to Israel in an attempt to please the Arabs and fool the Arabs. The press goes on to say that "the Arabs now receiving arms from the USSR will have no hesitation of going to the counterfeited and obtained arms from the USSR directly." ("One is a friend, always a friend" --Arab proverb)

7. Egypt has also received additional Soviet bloc aircraft. Eleven IL-14's arrived early this week. These aircraft were Egyptian-marked, and presumably Egyptian-piloted. All aircraft overflew Greece.

8. Maabar stated that if Israel is supplied with arms, the only alternative was to buy more from the Soviets. The receipt of arms is one thing and operational readiness is another (it is applied equally to Egypt and Israel). The mailing of Israel with counter-purchases by Egypt acts in effect an arms race that can have only one result. He should remember that the Arabs don't have copies of U.S. operational readiness manuals, and will move when they think they are ready. The Egyptian Air Force is reportedly bombing dangerously close to the Egyptian rocket testing area. (Bombing range and rocket range are 3½ miles apart). The Egyptians claim that they are having difficulty with the radar bombing equipment in the IL-28's. It is not known if the problems confronted are caused by personnel or equipment error. This is the first indication that Egyptian IL-28's were equipped with radar bombing equipment.

9. As a by-product of the Jordan-Egyptian military meetings in Cairo last week, King Hussein informed the British that Jordan will soon receive 2 squadrons of jet aircraft, some heavy artillery and a few tanks from Egypt. This equipment--if received--would probably be British arms that Egypt is getting rid of, e.g., selling Vampires to Saudi Arabia.

10. LtCol Muwar, the current strong man of Jordan (although only Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, Arab Legion) continues to consolidate and strengthen his position. By a series of arrests he is gradually neutralizing and obtaining defectors from his opposition. We believe that Muwar is moving too fast but will probably remain the strong man of Jordan unless/until his opponents show more courage.

YUGOSLAVIA

11. Yugoslav gave the U.S. Government what amounted to an ultimatum the other day. In short, the Jugs demanded more wheat aid, or they would turn to the Soviets. Killen

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(U.K.) considered this Av and with a statement that this attitude was confirmation of the belief of a great many people who felt US-Yugo relations were based exclusively on our contained handouts. Furthermore, if this was, in fact, the Yugo attitude, the sooner the U.S. found it out, the better. Tito isn't all-Yugoslavia is going back on the October 1955 agreement whereby 14 additional AIA personnel could enter Yugoslavia. Visiting is being held up and living accommodations are "not available." With Tito soon to visit Moscow, he probably wishes to represent his co-existence with the U.S. as "peaceful, but cautious." ("The Devil's friendship ends at the junction." --Arab proverb).

GREECE

12. In Greece, the government is literally fighting for its life. Prime Minister Theotokis returned from the North Atlantic Council meeting with apparently no new angles on the Cyprus problem. The hanging of the two Cypriots has set off a series of riots that have already injured over 300, with 4 known dead. The Cabinet is faced with uninterrupted pressure from opposition parties to break diplomatic relations with the U.K. To add more oil to the fire, the Greek Foreign Minister has told the British that "to avoid all possible risks, the Greek government desired that neither the British Ambassador nor his staff should attend the coronation functions (for which they had received invitations) connected with the visit of the President of the German Republic next week." The British initial reaction was explosive! The British Ambassador is ready to risk break in relations or at least personal recall on this issue. Cooler heads will probably prevail in London. ("He bites his tongue who speaks in haste" --Arab proverb).

IRAN

13. Elections to the 19th Majlis now proceeding rapidly. 98 Deputies out of 136 elected, of whom 20 are not holdovers. Most new Deputies are taking the place of faithful Zahedi adherents and assertive liberals. Result is a weaker Majlis as regards independent action and criticism. Political observers and general public regard this election as the most thoroughly rigged in Iranian history, a mere formality. The Shah will leave for Turkey on 15 May for a ten-day visit.

PAKISTAN

14. Pakistani Prime Minister Chaudiri Mohammad Ali's two-week trip to Communist China, scheduled to begin 15 May, coincides with an intense power struggle at home which may unseat him. Meetings of the provincial assemblies,

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scheduled for 19 May to sent full station and 22 May, in front
full station, by road to Anshan in Liaoning county's leadership,
although this could be delayed until Autumn. This
apposes the most likely causality of such a change. Most
likely beneficiary: opposition leader Sudarmady.
Both Mien and the West would find Sudarmady more
independent than the Peking Ministers they had to deal with
in the past.

[REDACTED]

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