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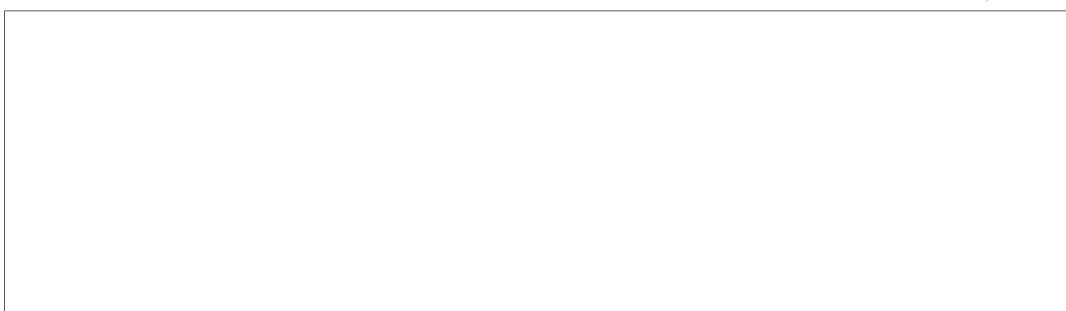
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3. IRAQI PREMIER REQUESTS US SUPPORT AGAINST SAUDI SUBVERSION

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Iraqi premier Nuri Said has expressed to the American embassy his serious concern over Egyptian-Saudi subversive activities in Iraq and has made a strong plea for American support, stating that he hoped the United States would find some way to cut off the flow of Saudi money to agitators and intriguers.

Nuri and other Iraqi officials said that they had discovered an Egyptian attempt to subvert the Iraqi army, and that Egypt and Saudi Arabia were maintaining close contacts with anti-Nuri elements. The officials added that Egypt is involved in smuggling bombs and explosives into Iraq

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The Iraqi government has made several arrests and is carefully checking Egyptian and Saudi diplomatic missions and their nationals employed in the Iraqi government who are reported involved in espionage activities.

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Comment

The Iraqis, who have previously reported Egyptian and Saudi intrigue, recently demanded the recall of the Egyptian army attaché. They may be preparing for some kind of a showdown, possibly the severing of relations with Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia strongly oppose the Baghdad pact and Iraqi attempts to gain more adherents. They are probably trying to incite disturbances and discontent in order to bring about the eventual downfall of Nuri, who was primarily responsible for Iraq's adherence to the pact.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 24 January)

An Israeli spokesman told the American army attaché in Tel Aviv that Israel fired with "heavy artillery" on Egyptian positions in the El Auja demilitarized zone on 21 January after 45 minutes of Egyptian mortar fire. The attaché commented that this was probably 155mm howitzer equipment, which would be the first time the Israelis have used this size gun on the frontier.

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The Jordan government has charged that an Israeli patrol penetrated six miles into Jordan territory south of the Dead Sea and exchanged fire with Jordanian national guardsmen.

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In Damascus Chief of Staff Shuqayr, commenting to the American army attaché on Israeli press reports that the Syrians were purchasing arms from the Czechs, said that a Syrian mission is in Prague to expedite shipment of spare parts for tanks. Shuqayr said Syria could get T-34 tanks with a five-year supply of spare parts if it wanted them but had taken no action yet as "some still oppose a deal with the Soviets." He also said Egypt would furnish Syria with some antiaircraft equipment in the near future but that he did not know whether it would be British equipment or Soviet (Czech) 85mm caliber. He added that the Israeli source of reports that Syria was dealing with the Czechs was an Israeli army purchasing mission in Prague. Shuqayr's remarks regarding Syrian dealings with the Czechs are the first such admission to American officials.

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