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3. TURKEY TO PRESS FOR JORDAN'S ADHERENCE TO
BAGHDAD PACT

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[Redacted]

When Turkish president Bayar visits Jordan in early November, he plans to urge Jordan's adherence to the Baghdad pact, according to the Turkish ambassador in Washington. Acting Foreign Minister Zorlu has expressed confidence that should Jordan adhere, Lebanon could be persuaded to follow suit.

The Turks have expressed doubts that Iraq can withstand Arab pressures unless additional Arab states are brought into the pact. They also regard the Soviet activity in the Arab states as highly dangerous and fear all Arab states will soon fall under Soviet influence unless energetic action is taken.

Comment

Turkish optimism regarding Jordan's interest in joining the pact is probably based on King Hussain's recent statement to Prime Minister Menderes that his country is studying the effect adherence would have on Jordan's treaty arrangements with Britain.

Jordan's ultimate adherence, accompanied by the abrogation of the 20-year Anglo-Jordanian treaty of 1948, is probably envisaged by Britain. However, the present frictions in the Arab world and the increase in Arab-Israeli tensions have created unfavorable conditions for a Jordanian decision to join the Baghdad pact.

While a strong Turkish representation may not result in immediate Jordanian adherence, it may strengthen Amman's determination not to align itself with Egypt.