FROM: Baghdad

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 647, November 23, 7 p.m.

PRIORITY

SENT DEPT 647, RPTD INFO LONDON 37.

Fol are developments subsequent those reported EMETEL 646

(1) At 11:20 Emb reported to Chief of Police a telephone message from USIS guard that mob attacking building. Emb asked police chief to send urgently adequate police protection. He promised to do so.

(2) At approx 12:30 telephone message was recd stating that mob had broken into USIS building and was burning papers from building in street. Second call was made to Chief Police giving him this info and asking that adequate measures be taken to protect the building. He said he had already sent police and fire brigades.

(3) At 13:20 Emb on hearing that USIS building was burning called Chief Police again. In describing event he stated police had cleared the building once but when police were withdrawn the mob reassembled and burned the building. When police returned mob fired upon fire brigade. When asked if police had arms he replied, "Sir, we cannot fire upon the people." Emb thereupon asked for safe conduct for two officers to visit USIS building to appraise damage and remove certain papers. He said streets not (rpt not) safe and we agreed call back in half hour.

(4) At 14:05 Emb called back and was told way still not safe but soon will be as regiment of regular army was taking over police functions. He said everything will be cleared by 1500.

(5) Later Emb contacted Abdul Qadir Gailani of FONOFF (A) to express our great distress that inadequate police protection had resulted in burning USIS building, (B) to ascertain whom we might contact inasmuch as we understood milit had taken over police function, (C) to request milit escort for Emb detail to view USIS building and remove certain papers.

(6) Shortly thereafter Gailani called back stating he had contacted acting FONMIN, then attending Council Ministers meeting, who had requested that Emb not (rpt not) attempt to visit USIS today. Emb said it considered it important to visit scene today
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and therefore asked Gallani to re-contact his Min to arrange safe
milit escort.

(7) Within half hour Gallani called back to say that Min implored
us not (rpt not) to attempt visit the scene today as mob still
at the building. Having little alternative and accepting his
assurance that adequate guard wd be placed so that no one wd
enter building, Emb agreed to postpone visit until tomorrow.

OSD Decision to postpone visit was soon proven sound by report
from local old employee who had just passed near USIS. building.

ARMY He stated three armored cars, surrounded by large crowd,
NAVY stationed in front of building; that building itself filled with
SAM mob, those on roof throwing papers and others throwing objects
I from windows. Crowd cheered the actions. Soldiers joined in
cheers.

(8) Emb informed that section of mob unsuccessfully attempted
per to penetrate Zia Hotel. A small group failed to force TCA
offices. A group successfully entered and set fire IRAQ TIMES
plant and wrecked U of AC offices. British info offices stoned.

(9) All Amers believed safe. Plans being brought up to Midfai
for evacuation Amers in hotels or living isolated areas if sitn
not (rpt not) brought back into control by authorities. Emb
compound protected by all means available.

(10) At this time, 1800, not (rpt not) yet clear (1) that sitn
now under control, (2) whether army or police have been placed
in authority to control sitn, (3) whether Midfai has been able
to form new govt.

BERRY

ERM:BD

Note: NEA message center notified 11/24/52 EMB(CWO)