

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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TELEGRAPH BRANCH

SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION

PROGRAM PLANNING & EVALUATION OFFICE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

7645

February 17, 1952
4:57 a.m.

Handwritten initials and signatures

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Action

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Info

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FROM: Baghdad

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 637, February 6, 6 p.m.

FEB 20 1952

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Handwritten notes: "replied 2/20/52" and a circular stamp.

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Ref IE Circ 6, 8, 1951, and CIRC Instructions Mar 20, 1951, re USIE evaluation surveys. Emb requests authority spend sum not in excess of \$2,500 from current operating expenses to support survey under conditions as fol: William Polk, AM, Rockefeller foundation fellow presently in ME studying position and influence younger middle class group has discussed possibility making survey of opinions, reading, listening habits, this group in Iraq with education professor Nuri Jafar, Higher Teacher's Training College Sociology, Prof Ali Wardi, college Arts and Science. Jafar studied public opinion survey technique at Ohio State College and Wardi at University of Texas. Polk has no funds for such surveys. Without funds survey wld be merely small inconclusive class room exercise with help of paid interviewers survey cld be widened, intensified.

Professors plan use of mass observation, informal interview techniques with guide sheets for interviewers. Working in coffee houses, important centers for young middle class intellectuals, interviewers wld note subjects under discussion, attitudes toward subjects and wld endeavor discover how subjects arrive at opinions. With funds 10 interviewers wld work three weeks, making estimated 300 informal interviews.

Polk has explained that funds might be available by telling professors he might obtain funds from US magazine for such survey.

Polk may actually use material for later article, but is willing give Emb all info and allow PAO to direct survey from behind scenes. Emb has told Polk USIS interested in such matters, but unable promise funds.

Because of suspicion of foreigners, feeling against US because of Israel, and gen reluctance discuss opinions with strangers, such surveys impossible with open USIE support. Emb feels Polk plan presents excellent opportunity to learn something concerning important young group in Iraq without any apparent

participation US Govt.

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By AI NARA Date 7-1-92

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participation US Govt. Money for interviewers wld be paid Polk who wld arrange payment to interviewers through professors.

This request being telegraphed because Polk leaving Iraw end of March. Survey must begin latest by March 1.

CROCKER

TT:KC

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