

TELEGRAM

65  
Department of State

787.00/11-235-2

AR 124.871

CONFIDENTIAL SECURITY INFORMATION

NEA  
Info  
SS  
G  
EUR  
UNA  
OLI  
CIA  
OSD  
ARMY  
AIR  
NAVY  
SAM  
I  
IBS  
SY  
DS

FROM: Baghdad  
TO: Secretary of State  
NO: 647, November 23, 7 p.m.

Control: 8908  
Rec'd: November 24, 1952  
2:08 p.m.

DC/R  
CONTROL COPY

787.00/11-235-2

PRIORITY  
SENT DEPT 647, RPTD INFO LONDON 37.

Fol are developments subsequent those reported EMBTEL 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 brigade.
- (3) At 13:20 Emb on hearing that USIS building was burning called Chief Police again. In describing event he stated police had cleared mob once but when police were withdrawn mob reassembled and fired building.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 wld be as regiment of regular army was taking over police functions. He said everything wld 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 visit 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

and

Correction Desk

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16 -2- 647, November 23, 7 p.m., from Baghdad.

Action

NEA and therefore asked Gailani to re-contact his Min to arrange safe  
Info milit escort.

SS

G (7) Within half hour Gailani called back to say that Min implored  
EUR us not (rpt not) to attempt visit the scene today as mob still  
UNA at the building. Having little alternative and accepting his  
OLI assurance that adequate guard wld be placed so that no one wld  
CIA enter building, Emb agreed to postpone visit until tomorrow.  
OSD Decision to postpone visit was soon proven sound by report  
ARMY from local old employee who had just passed near USIS building.  
AIR 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  
IBS cheers.

SY

DS (8) Emb informed that section of mob unsuccessfully attempted  
PER to penetrate Zia Hotel. A small group failed to force TCA  
X offices. A group successfully entered and set fire IRAQ TIMES  
plant and wrecked Ubbo 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

MRM:BD

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

787.00/11-2353