



Communist material could be opened with government help has never, until now, materialized. Very shortly after he took office, the new Minister of State, Rufail Butti, was informed of our willingness and ability to supply him with appropriate material to fight domestic Communism. Nothing was done at that time, although it has since been learned that a series of articles linking the Communists with the Zionists in Al-Yaqdha from November 7 was the beginning of the government's anti-Communist campaign.

Finally, on December 15, the Director General of Propaganda, Tahsin Ibrahim, approached the Public Affairs Officer for assistance in supplying material on the "international aspects of Communism". On December 18, he came to USIS and conferred with the Public Affairs Officer and the Information Officer. Samples of non-attributed IPS anti-Communist pamphlets, of Soviet Affairs Notes, and of material from the IPS Background and Action Kit on World Communism were turned over to the Director General for him and for his committee to study. He plans to come weekly to review material with USIS although such meetings have been interrupted by the recent holidays. He states that he and his committee plan to feed material to local newspapers and magazines, to the radio, and to issue pamphlets.

In a conversation on January 1, Minister of State Rufail Butti informed the Public Affairs Officer that his government was directly subsidizing two newspapers, Al-Haqiqa, edited by Hassan Ali Jewad, and Al-Siyassa, edited by Abdul Baqi Said. Jewad is a former classmate of Dr. Jamali's at AUB, a former school teacher, and, most recently, editor of Al-Tahrir which had frequently published editorials unfriendly to the West. He closed the latter paper at Dr. Jamali's request in order to start the new newspaper. A sample of a recent article in this newspaper is attached. Seldom has anti-Communist material so strong appeared in Iraqi newspapers.

Abdul Baqi Said is formerly editor of Al-Raid, a government-subsidized newspaper which was not a success. It is hoped that the new one will have a character which will make it more successful. It is through these two rather weak organs that the bulk of the government's press campaign, both on behalf of its domestic policies and against Communism is to be conducted.

In addition Al-Yaqdha, edited by a militant anti-Zionist and nationalist, Salman Safwani, is cooperating with the government in the anti-Communist campaign. He is not being directly subsidized since he wishes to remain independent on other issues.

The government recently closed a leftist-tinged monthly literary magazine Al-Thaqafa, Al-Jadida and plans to start such

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a monthly of its own, with an anti-Communist policy. Dr. Salmi Al-Naimi, presently the not too efficient Dean of the College of Commerce and Economics, has been tentatively selected as editor. The government has one other organ, a monthly magazine Al-Risala Al-Jadida, edited by Mohammad Munir Al-Yassin. Consideration was also given to reviving the magazine of the young nationalist group, the Ba'ath Al-Arabi (not related to the Syrian leftist group), but it was decided that this group had too heavy a Shia tinge to be totally effective.

A policy guidance committee was formed for Radio Baghdad in the first week of January. One of its functions will be to prepare anti-Communist material "on an international plane" for the Radio. This committee consists of Tahsin Ibrahim, Director General of Propaganda; Faisal Damaluji of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Khaldun Husri (son-in-law of Rashid Ali) and Hassan Dujaili, Director General in the Ministry of Education. All are prominent young nationalists friendly to Dr. Jamali. The permanence of this committee should the Jamali government fall, is extremely doubtful.

#### COMMENT

Neither the Embassy nor USIS can be too optimistic about the ultimate success or effectiveness of this campaign. There is, first, the uncertain tenure of Dr. Jamali's government. Given a respite by the support of Nuri Said and generally popular with non-political groups, Dr. Jamali's government is seriously handicapped by its lack of affiliation with the old traditional party groups. Even the support of Nuri Said may be only for the moment. The campaign depends largely on the continuation of Dr. Jamali's government since the present Prime Minister is one of the few politicians in Iraqi life today willing to support such an anti-Communist campaign.

The man directly responsible for the campaign, Tahsin Ibrahim, is looking to his own future and has already obtained a suspended appointment as Cultural Attache in Istanbul which he will accept as soon as Dr. Jamali's government falls. The Istanbul appointment is Tahsin Beg's reward for leaving the deanship of the Higher Teacher's Training College to become Director General of Propaganda.

The campaign is further handicapped by the fact that, for a variety of complex reasons, most of the important newspaper editors are unlikely to cooperate with the government on such a campaign. Only Salman Safwani who feels bitterly about the Zionists has been persuaded to participate by evidence given him linking the local Communists with Communists in Israel. This leaves the government with only the radio, two weak daily

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newspapers and two possible monthlies of doubtful power. Perhaps because the government feels it cannot place anti-Communist material in most of the newspapers it has chosen to disseminate such material through its own newspapers. The campaign would, however, be more effective if more material could be placed in newspapers known to be free of government support.

From the standpoint of the United States, the campaign presents one other serious problem. Dr. Jamali feels that the best way to fight Communism in Iraq is to demonstrate its links with Israel and with world Zionism. Since support for Zionism is also linked in the public mind with the United States any such campaign creates a sort of neutralist "plague on both your houses" attitude and could stir up increased enmity against the United States at the same time.

Against these disadvantages are weighed the facts that this is the first time a government in Iraq has attempted to attack the Communists on the propaganda level and that the government in the absence of any strong organizations, presents the only possible indigenous channels in Iraq through which USIS can disseminate non-attributed anti-Communist material. All other channels must be opened and oiled by means not within the proper scope of USIS.

The Embassy and USIS have, therefore, decided to support the campaign by supplying raw material for the consideration of the committee and by such verbal advice on techniques as may seem appropriate. At the same time, the Public Affairs Officer and the Information Officer will endeavor constantly to point out effective local anti-Communist lines other than those which might ultimately react unfavorably against the United States.

*Burton Berry*

Burton Y. Berry

Enclosure  
As stated herein.

*WB*

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A Secret Leaflet About Beria in Baghdad

This paper received a secret leaflet which we print here leaving the comments for the readers themselves.

Beria

In February 1953 Laverenty Beria was a member in the Russian Politburo and the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

He was Chief of the Secret Police and the Council of War.

He was the closest and dearest friend of Stalin.

He had been awarded Lenin's medal and the Golden Medal of the Hammer and Sickle.

Stalin bestowed on him the title of the Socialist Labor Hero for the remarkable services he had rendered to the country.

Then Stalin died and in August 1953 Beria was accused for treason and called:

"A Bourgeoise traitor"	Pravda
"Servant of the foreign imperialism"	Pravda
"The Soviet people enemy"	Pravda
"The Imperialism Agent"	Moscow Radio
"A poisonous snake"	Pravda

He was arrested and secretly tried in December then shot without defending himself or appealing the sentence.

That is what happened to the Chief of the Russian secret police and to six others of his elite.

And that is what happened to thousands of other Russians--students, teachers, businessmen, civil servants etc.

And that is what happened in all countries under the Communists' control.

Had Iraq been Communist this would have happened to you.

So fight the Communist threat, sons of Iraq.

From Al-Haqiqa January 10, 1954

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