Documents submitted to Cde. V.M. Molotov Ministry of Foreign Affairs

10.6.(1952)[[1]](#footnote-1) Use in print

Zorin reports information on the Anglo-American struggle for influence in Transjordan. On 4 June this year, a palace coup took place in Transjordan. King Talal[[2]](#footnote-2) has been declared mentally ill and temporarily ‘pushed aside’, out of power. A new regency council has been appointed to run the country in the place of the one appointed earlier by the King. The behind-the-scenes aspect of this event bears witness to the further sharpening of Anglo-American disagreements in the Near and Middle East. Renowned for his American sympathies, King Talal came to the throne in August 1951 following the killing, by American agents, of Abdullah[[3]](#footnote-3); the latter was a conduit for English policy in the Near East and enabled the transformation of Transjordan into an English landed estate. After the murder of Abdullah, the English tried to proclaim his younger son Nayef King, but this was hindered by the Americans. Having become the head of state, King Tala took up an openly pro-American course in foreign and domestic policy. He accepted aid through Truman’s Point Four Programme and intended to sell oil prospecting rights to the whole territory of Jordan to American companies. At his command, many officials with pro-English inclinations were dismissed. Under the influence of the Americans Talal refused to support the English plan for creating a “Greater Syria” and was inclined to agree to the realisation of the American variant of the unification of Arab states. The English, having found themselves facing the threat of losing their position in Transjordan, began to undertake measures to sideline Talal from power and seat their man on the throne. Pro-English elements in the Government of Transjordan forced Talal to leave for France supposedly because of his schizophrenia. The actions of the pro-English side in Transjordan were led by the commander of the so-called Arab Legion, General Glubb Pasha (the famous English intelligence officer in the Near East)[[4]](#footnote-4). The measures that pushed Talal from power were taken by the Prime Minister Tawfik Pasha. According to reports in the Arab press, the most likely candidates for the throne in Transjordan are the pro-English Prince Nayef and Talal’s sixteen year old son Hussein[[5]](#footnote-5), who was raised in England.

Sent to Cde. Stalin and the other comrades of “the Eight”, as well as to Cdes. Suslov, Vyshinsky and Grigorian.

[RSASPH f. 82. inv. 2. fold. 1043, p. 204]

Keywords: Middle East

1. This information goes into the summary report under the sequential number 3 for 10.6.1952. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Talal ibn Abdullah ibn Hussein ibn Ali – King of Jordan in 1951-1952, abdicating the throne in favour of his son Hussein on 11 August 1952 on account of the state of his health. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Abdullah I ibn Hussein – Emir of Transjordan in 1921-1946, King of Jordan in 1946-1951 (following the renaming of the Emirate of Transjordan into the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in 1946). After the British mandate in Palestine ended in 1948, he took part in the Arab-Israeli war and united Palestine to Jordan within the framework of the policy of creating a “Greater Syria”. He was killed on 20 July 1951 at the entrance to the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem by a fighter from the Palestinian nationalist organisation Al-Jihad al-Muqaddas. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Glubb, John Bagott (1897-1986), famous as “Glubb Pasha” – British General, Commander of the Arab Legion in Transjordan from 1939; in this capacity he took part in the Arab-Israeli war of 1947-1949 on the side of Arab troops. He received the title Pasha from the Emir of Transjordan. In 1956 he was dismissed from service by King Hussein. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Talal I ben Abdullah ben al-Hussein (1935-1999). Attended Victoria College in Alexandria (Egypt) and Harrow College in Great Britain, then the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (Great Britain). King of Jordan (1952-1999). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)