

# Scenarios of Dramatic Political Change: Ouster of the Syrian President, A Longstanding CIA Project

By [Global Research News](#)

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Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#)

In-depth Report: [SYRIA](#)

*The following declassified CIA document entitled Scenarios of Dramatic Political Change confirms Washington's longstanding plan to implement "regime change" in Syria.*

*The document dated July 1986 pertains to the proposed ouster of President Hafiz Al Assad, the father of Bashar Al Assad. The document was written towards the end of the Cold War.*

*The document was declassified in August 2011 at the outset of the terrorist insurgency against Syria sponsored by US-NATO, with the support of Israel.*

[To read the declassified CIA document \(pdf\) click here](#)

The document was prepared by the Foreign Subversion and Instability Center (FSIC), Office of Global Issues.

Various scenarios to destabilize a foreign government were analysed. The CIA calls it "subversion". The analysis is entrusted to the FSIC.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/12/08 : CIA-RDP86T01017R0001007

DATE 7/31/86 <sup>FILE</sup> 36

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P & PD 1 35

30 JUL 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution List

FROM:

Director of Global Issues

SUBJECT:

Syria: Scenarios of Dramatic Political  
Change

PREFACE

This memorandum explores alternative scenarios that could lead to the ouster of President Hafiz al-Assad in Syria. Specifically, it seeks to clarify the individuals and groups that might impel or impede takeover attempts and presents indicators that would suggest specific scenarios are unfolding. The analysis, purposely provocative, does not attempt to predict the likelihood of specific outcomes other than in the broadest sense. Rather it provides a structured way of thinking about dramatic political change in Syria on the basis of observable events and thus a greater ability to recognize the potential implications of key developments.

FILE

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FROM: [redacted]  
Director of Global Issues

SUBJECT: Syria: Scenarios of Dramatic Political  
Change [redacted]

1. This memorandum presents a number of possible scenarios that could lead to the ouster of President Assad or other dramatic change in Syria. It thus complements Intelligence Community assessments and estimates that focus on probable further developments in Syria. The analysis, purposely provocative, aims to make explicit and bring to the forefront of our thinking the diversity of challenges that could force political change in Syria in the years to come. Because the analysis out of context is susceptible to misunderstanding, external distribution has been severely restricted. Please limit circulation in your office and do not reproduce the document. Your thoughts on the analysis and suggested indicators are welcome. [redacted]

2. We will send you similar papers on other countries as they are completed. [redacted]

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## Indicators of the Developing Scenario

- o Strikes and demonstrations demanding government action to end discrimination against Sunnis become frequent.
- o Security personnel force businesses to reopen and confiscate the inventories of many.
- o The government conducts indiscriminate roundups of Sunni leaders.
- o Syrian leaders accuse Iraq and the Muslim Brotherhood of fomenting unrest.
- o Violent incidents including bombings of Sunni social gatherings take place; Sunnis retaliate with similar violence against Alawis.
- o Government attacks on suspected Sunnis dissidents increase; sometimes razing whole blocks in Sunni residential areas.
- o Sunni troops refuse to fire on demonstrators; some units mutiny and join growing Sunni opposition movement.

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