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# Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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O 031935Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6198

S E C R E T CAIRO 8677

NODIS CHEROKEE

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG US IS SY
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FAHMY

REF: CAIRO 8648

1. AS FAHMY HAD REQUESTED, I MET WITH HIM THIS EVENING FOR ABOUT AN HOUR AND A HALF. IT TURNED OUT THAT HE DID NOT HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER TO TELL ME ABOUT THE BREZHNEV LETTER TO SADAT, BUT WANTED TO TALK ABOUT THE GENERAL SITUATION. HE SAYS SADAT IS ONLY NOW BECOMING AWARE OF SOME OF THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS THE NEW AGREEMENT POSES FOR HIM IN THE ARAB WORLD. HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT IS CONFIDENT HE CAN SEE IT THROUGH. FAHMY PERSONALLY CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN THAT ALL EXPLANATIONS WILL HAVE TO COME FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THAT HE, FAHMY, IS CONSCIOUSLY KEEPING SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN THE AGREEMENT AND HIMSELF.

2. AS WE WERE TALKING, THE PRESIDENT TELEPHONED TO SAY HE HAD NOT HEARD FROM FAHMY FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS AND TO ASK WHAT IS GOING ON. FAHMY EXPLAINED TO SADAT AT SOME LENGTH, IN ARABIC, THE SOVIET CHARGE'S CALLS OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY, BRING LETTERS FROM BREZHNEV AND GROMYKO. HE HAD EXPLAINED TO THE SOVIET CHARGE THAT THE NEW AGREEMENT IS NOT RPT NOT INTENDED TO EXCLUDE

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THE SOVIETS, BUT REPRESENTS AN EFFORT TO MOVE AHEAD

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ON THE OVERALL ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. THE AMERICAN
STATIONS, WHICH THE CHARGE HAD SPECIFICALLY QUERIED,
FAHMY HAD CONTENDED HAVE NO RPT NO REAL POLITICAL
OR MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE. THEY WILL SIMPLY BE
CHECK-POINTS MONITORING THE ACTIVITIES OF BOTH
PARTIES, BUT ESPECIALLY THE ISRAELIS. NUMBERS OF
AMERICANS WILL BE SMALL AND THEY UNDERSTAND THAT
THEY WILL BE ON EGYPTIAN SOIL. THE CHARGE HAD
ALSO AGAIN COMPLAINED ABOUT OUR DOING THE PORT SAID
MINESWEEPING, BUT FAHMY HAD BRUSHED THIS OFF AS
SIMPLY A CONVENIENCE AND NOT RPT NOT AN ANTI-SOVIET ACTION.

3. HE THEN TOLD THE PRESIDENT ABOUT GROMYKO'S LETTER
AND HIS PROPOSAL TO US THAT, IN THE EVENT THE SOVIETS
DO NOT RPT NOT ATTEND TOMORROW'S SIGNING CEREMONY AT GENEVA,
WE ALSO ABSENT OURSELVES FROM THAT MEETING (REFTEL). SUCH SIMILAR
ABSENCE BY US WOULD UNDERMINE THE SOVIET INTENTION
TO GET A MAJOR PUBLICITY PLOY THROUGH THEIR
NON-ATTENDANCE. THE PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY AGREED.
SADAT OBSERVED "THERE IS NO RPT NO POINT TO MAKING HEROS
OUT OF THE SOVIETS IN THE ARAB WORLD."

4. AFTER HIS TALK WITH THE PRESIDENT, FAHMY SAID
SADAT INTENDS TO MAKE A MAJOR POLITICAL EFFORT TO
JUSTIFY THE AGREEMENT. FAHMY BELIEVES THE AGREEMENT WILL BE
WELL RECEIVED IN EGYPT, AT LEAST INITIALLY, VP HOSNY MOBAREK, WHO
HAS JUST COME BACK FROM RIYADH AND DAMASCUS, HAD
INFORMED HIM OF SAUDI APPROVAL OF THE EGYPTIAN ACTION.
SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD HAD REMAINED NON-COMMITAL, ALTHOUGH
MOBAREK CONCLUDED THAT THE SYRIAN ARMY AND BUSINESS
COMMUNITY IS PLEASED AND HOPES FOR AN EARLY
SIMILAR AGREEMENT RE GOLAN. FAHMY BELIEVES THAT ASSAD
IS LESS WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE AGREEMENT,
THOUGH HE IS KEEPING HIS OPTIONS OPEN. TOMORROW
SADAT EXPLAINS THE AGREEMENT TO A JOINT SESSION OF
THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY/ASU, AND FAHMY IS QUITE CERTAIN
HE SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IN DOING SO.

5. FAHMY THEN TURNED TO ANOTHER FAVORITE
SUBJECT, I.E. THE NEED TO HAVE US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS PUT





ON A SOUND, ENDURING BASIS. I TOLD HIM THIS IS
ALSO OUR DESIRE. FAHMY AGAIN STRESSED THAT WE SHOULD
CONSIDER EGYPT AS THE PIVOTAL ARAB COUNTRY, ALONG
WITH PERHAPS ALGERIA, ALTHOUGH DOMESTIC PROBLEMS
IN THE LATTER LIMIT ITS EFFECTIVENESS. WE SHOULD
LOOK FOR FURTHER WAYS AND MEANS OF STRENGTHENING
OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE AGREED WE WOULD HAVE
ANOTHER TALK ON THAT SUBJECT BEFORE LONG.

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EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO SECRETARY.

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