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OSD REVIEWED 01-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION.

156098/246

S E C R E T/SANDY CIRCUIT//IMMEDIATE//WHP #79

TO: GEN SCOWCROFT

FROM: RG SVENDSEN

SUBJ: COMMENTS BY MAJ GEN NASSAR, DIR OF INTEL

1. I MET WITH GEN NASSAR (DIRECTOR OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE) THIS MORNING FOR ABOUT 30 MINUTES. DURING THE COURSE OF CONVERSATION THERE WERE TWO ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST: (1) IN GENERAL CONVERSATION RELATED TO THE SUSJAEI SITUATION, GEN NASSAR STATED THAT IF THERE WAS NO FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AUGUST, THE SITUATION WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO HANDLE LATER. HE DID NOT AMPLIFY HIS REMARKS BEYOND SAYING THAT SEPTEMBER WAS A BAD TIME FOR BOTH EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES. (2) IN RESPONSE TO MY INQUIRY ABOUT THE STATUS OF EGYPTIAN FORCES AFTER THE RENEWAL OF THE UNEF MANDATE, GEN NASSAR STATED THAT THE STATUS OF ALERT OF EGYPTIAN FORCES HAD BEEN REDUCED ONE STEP ON 25 JULY. BY REDUCING ONE STEP, EGYPTIAN FORCES WILL BE IN THEIR NORMAL STATE OF READINESS (A FAIRLY HIGH STATE OF READINESS).

2. COMMENTS REFERENCE THE AUGUST SETTLEMENT--I COULD NOT DETERMINE WHETHER GEN NASSAR WAS REFERRING TO ANY PROPOSED UNILATERAL EGYPTIAN ACTION OR IF HE WAS JUST CONCERNED ABOUT THE NORMAL ADMINISTRATIVE LULL THAT NORMALLY TAKES PLACE IN SEPTEMBER DUE TO HIGH NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL ON LEAVE DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER. REFERENCE THE ALERT STATUS, HIS COMMENT WAS INTERESTING IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THREE OF THIS MORNING'S CAIRO PAPERS CARRY BANNER HEADLINES QUOTING PRESIDENT SADAT ATTESTING TO THE HIGH STATE OF READINESS OF THE EGYPTIAN FORCES. HOWEVER, IT IS FELT PRESIDENT SADAT'S COMMENTS ARE OF A GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF EGYPTIAN READINESS RATHER THAN ACTUAL ALERT STATUS.

3. HAVE RECEIVED FIVE RECEIVE AND FIVE SEND REELS OF KEY TAPE FOR THIS CIRCUIT.

4. WARM REGARDS, TIARK  
BT

\*\*\*\*\*WHSR COMMENT\*\*\*\*\*

MCFARLANE, ROOMAN --NOT SENT TO SCOWCROFT

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TO PETER RODMAN FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT  
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SECRET/SANDY CIRCUIT//IMMEDIATE//WHP 079

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