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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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IMMEDIATE
O 180958Z OCT 84
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0828

ZYUM RUEHGA1620 2921004

THAT HE WAS TRYING TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY IN EGYPT. THERE WAS FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND A REAL OPPOSITION WHICH HE HAD TO PAY ATTENTION TO. IN CONTEXT OF THIS DISCUSSION, AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT HUSSEIN APPEARS TO BE AUTOMATICALLY REJECTING PUBLICLY ANY POSITIVE INITIATIVE FROM PERES. HE NOTED THAT THIS WAS THE EFFECT OF WEAKENING PERES AT HOME. THE SECRETARY STRESSED WE ALL HAD AN OBLIGATION BY OUR ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS TO STRENGTHEN PERES' RESOLVE AND ABILITY TO MOVE ALONG POSITIVE LINES. THE SECRETARY SUPPORTED AN EARLY MEETING BETWEEN PERES AND HUBARAK, STRESSING THE DESIRABLE NORMALIZING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THROUGH THE RETURN OF THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL. HUBARAK SAID THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION WERE OPEN AND THAT HE WAS IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH SHIMON PERES THROUGH HIS CHARGE IN ISRAEL. HE ADDED HIS WILLINGNESS TO SEND OR RECEIVE SPECIAL ENVOYS TO KEEP THE DIALOGUE GOING AT A HIGH LEVEL. HE EXPLAINED HIS DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS: A MEETING WITH PERES MUST BE CAREFULLY PREPARED SO AS TO ENSURE A CONSTRUCTIVE OUTCOME, EMPHASIZING THE STRONG PREFERENCE FOR AN AGREEMENT TO BREAK THE IMPASSE ON THE TABA DISPUTE. THE SECRETARY AGAIN PRESSED ON THE RETURN OF THE AMBASSADOR. HUBARAK REPLIED ALONG FAMILIAR LINES -- I.E., THREE CONDITIONS, BT

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SUBJECT: SECDEF VISIT; DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT

7. CHAD/ALGERIA. ON CHAD, HUBARAK NOTED THAT EGYPT WAS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE CHADIANS TRYING TO HELP THEM WHERE THAT WAS POSSIBLE. HE EXPRESSED HIS DEEP CYNICISM REGARDING LIBYAN INTENTIONS IN CHAD AFTER FRENCH WITHDRAWAL AND AFTER THE OAU SUMMIT. HUBARAK SAID THAT HE WAS GOING TO DISCUSS CHAD WITH WITTENBERG ON OCTOBER 29 AND FINALLY NOTE HIS CONCERNS. HUBARAK ALSO NOTED THAT EVEN ALGERIAN RELATIONS WERE IMPROVING. HE HAD SENT A SECRET ENVIASSARY TO ALGIERS NOT TOO LONG AGO TO ESTABLISH CONTACT AT THE VERY TOP. THIS HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY A SPECIAL MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS IN NEW YORK WITH AGREEMENT FOR THEM TO MEET AGAIN AS WELL AS OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSTANT OFFICIAL CONTACT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT HE IS PLANNING TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT BENDJEDID DURING THE OAU SUMMIT IN ADDIS.

8. ISRAEL. THE SUBJECT OF ISRAEL WAS RAISED BY HUBARAK IN THE CONTEXT OF HIS COMMENTS ON PRESS REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON OF U.S. AGREEMENT TO INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY AID LEVELS TO ISRAEL AS A RESULT OF THE VISIT OF PERES. HE NOTED THAT EGYPT WILL ASK FOR EQUAL TREATMENT, AT LEAST PRESSING FOR AN INCREASE IN ESF EQUAL TO EGYPT'S FMS DEBTS. HE EXPLAINED THE CRUSHING BURDEN OF THESE DEBTS ON EGYPT AND THEIR POTENTIAL FOR DISRUPTING THE EGYPTIAN FIVE-YEAR PLAN, INTERNAL UNREST, AND NEGATIVE IMPACT ON U.S./EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. HE REMINDED US THAT HE HAD RAISED THIS ISSUE IN WASHINGTON WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN LAST YEAR AND HAD REPEATED HIS CONCERNS DURING HIS MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT EARLY THIS YEAR. HE HAD DROPPED THE MATTER DURING THE ELECTION YEAR SINCE HE DID NOT WISH TO ADD TO THE PRESIDENT'S BURDEN. HE WILL, HOWEVER, PRESS FOR A "CANCELLATION" OF THE DEBT EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY THROUGH INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE CASH GRANT TO COVER THE FMS BURDEN. SECDEF RESPONDED THAT WE WERE WELL AWARE OF THEIR FMS DEBT PROBLEM WHICH IS CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR OTHER FRIENDS. HE NOTED THE TUNISIANS HAD DISCUSSED THE ISSUE WITH SECDEF NOTED WE WOULD DO OUR BEST TO BE HELPFUL.

9. EGYPT/ISRAEL. SECRETARY WEINDENGER NOTED THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE BY ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER PERES ON EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI RELATIONS AND MORE BROADLY IN THE REGION INCLUDING LEBANON AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. PERES WANTS THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO RETURN. WE ALSO BELIEVE THIS IS DESIRABLE. HE URGED EGYPT TO BE CREATIVE IN ITS RESPONSE TO PERES' APPROACHES IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE AREA AND TO STRENGTHEN PERES AT HOME. HUBARAK NOTED THAT PERES WISHED TO HAVE AN EARLY MEETING WITH HIM. HE EXPLAINED IN FAMILIAR TERMS HIS POSITION, NEEDING TO ASSURE A POSITIVE OUTCOME IN ADVANCE AND THAT HE HAD EXPLAINED HIS POSITION ON THIS TO PERES. HUBARAK NOTED THAT AN AGREEMENT TO SETTLE TABA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT WAS THE MINIMUM THAT EGYPT NEEDED AS AN OUTCOME OF THE HUBARAK/PERES MEETING. WITHOUT THAT, HE COULD NOT JUSTIFY WARMING UP EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI RELATIONS TO HIS OWN DOMESTIC OPINION. HE REMINDED THE SECRETARY

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ASSISTANCE TO THE SUKRA WITH ANY PROBLEMS NOTED. HE EXPECTED NINEIRI TO TRY TO LOBBY HIM ON U.S. ASSISTANCE AND MUBARAK WANTED TO BE ARMED WITH THE TRUE FACTS BEFOREHAND. (HE SUBSEQUENTLY GAVE THE GOE A BRIEF STATUS REPORT.)

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~~EXTRA~~

~~CLASSIFICATION IS SUBJECT TO EXCLUSION~~

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TAGS: PREL, MARR, EG, XF

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AND AVOIDED LINKING THE RETURN OF THE AMBASSADOR TO A "SUCCESSFUL" MUBARAK-PERES VISIT.

10. HAS BAHAS. SECRETARY WEINBERGER EXPRESSED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT AND REGRET AT THE GOE DECISION NOT TO PROCEED. MUBARAK REPLIED ALONG THE LINES OF HIS RESPONSES TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY MURPHY, STRESSING DOMESTIC CONSTRAINTS AND DAMAGE THIS COULD DO TO OUR RELATIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE REPEATED THAT "ALL EGYPTIAN FACILITIES" ARE OPEN FOR THE U.S. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM A FRIENDLY ARAB OR MUSLIM COUNTRY. THE SECRETARY INITIATED A DISCUSSION OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT A CHANGE IN OUR LAWS CONCERNING THE USE OF FUNDS AND THE ROLE OF THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS MIGHT BE A WAY TO MOVE THE PROJECT FORWARD. MUBARAK REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, EXPLAINING THAT THERE COULD BE "NO CHANGE" AS CONCERNS HAS BAHAS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE THURST OF HIS COMMENTS MADE CLEAR THAT THE PROJECT IS ON THE SHELF.

11. NUCLEAR POWER MARSHIP TRANSITS. WEINBERGER RAISED OUR CONTINUING INTENSE INTEREST IN RECEIVING APPROVAL FOR NPW TRANSIT THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL. PRESIDENT MUBARAK SAID THAT HE HAD NO OBJECTION AND THEN NOTED THAT THERE WERE "SOME GUARANTEES" LACKING. THE SECRETARY BRIEFLY REVIEWED THE SITUATION NOTING THAT HE HAD BEEN VERY RESPONSIVE TO VARIOUS EGYPTIAN REQUESTS. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE HAD RECENTLY DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH VARIOUS SENIOR EGYPTIANS. HE NEEDED CLARIFICATION OF GOE POLICY. HE ADDED THAT "IF THE ANSWER IS NEGATIVE DESPITE ALL OF OUR RESPONSES TO GOE CONCERN" BUT WAS UNABLE TO FINISH THE SENTENCE; MUBARAK BROKE IN AND REPEATED HE HAD NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE. AMBASSADOR THEN RECOMMENDED THAT THERE BE A GOE INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP HEADED BY OSAMA EL-BAZ SO THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO RE-ENGAGE WITH A FOCAL POINT IN THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT. (AMBASSA HAD CLEARED THIS APPROACH EARLIER WITH DEFENSE MINISTER ABDO GHAZALA.) MUBARAK AGREED THAT OSAMA EL-BAZ WOULD HEAD SUCH A WORKING GROUP.

12. OTHER SUBJECTS COVERED IN SUMMARY FORM SITUATION IN THE SUDAN AND THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR. BOTH WERE DISCUSSED IN FAMILIAR TERMS BY THE EGYPTIANS. (IRAN/IRAQ WAS DISCUSSED IN DETAIL IN THE SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE IN HQ.) MUBARAK ASKED IF WE HAD MADE ANY PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING THE IDEA OF EMERGENCY FACILITIES IN SUDAN. HE NOTED THAT HE WOULD CERTAINLY SUPPORT THIS IDEA WITH NINEIRI IF WE WISHED HIM TO DO SO. MUBARAK NOTED THAT NINEIRI WAS ARRIVING IN CAIRO THAT DAY TO ATTEND THE SESSION OF THE "HILE PARLIAMENT" (REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE EGYPTIAN AND SUDANESE PARLIAMENTS) AND TO HAVE A MINOR OPERATION ON HIS FOOT. HE WOULD CONTINUE TO URGE NINEIRI TO RECONCILE WITH THE SOUTH AND TO GO EASY ON THE MORE OBJECTIONABLE ASPECTS OF ISLAMIZATION. TO PREPARE FOR HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH NINEIRI, MUBARAK ASKED FOR A STATUS REPORT ON U.S. MILITARY AND ECONOMIC

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