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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

31 JAN 1983

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INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS

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Date: AUG 13 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting Between President Mubarak and Secretary of  
Defense Weinberger, 27 January 1983, Residence of  
Egyptian Ambassador to the US, Washington, DC (U)

Participants

US

Secretary Weinberger  
LTG Cast, Dir, DSAA  
Mr. Schneider, Dep Ass't Sec  
of State  
MG Secord, DASD/NESA  
MG Smith, MA to SecDef  
CAPT Jackson, ISA/NESA

Egypt

President Mubarak  
Deputy Prime Minister Ali  
Ambassador Ghorbal

(S) The meeting opened with an exchange of greetings between President Mubarak and SecDef Weinberger. SecDef indicated that President Reagan was looking forward to seeing President Mubarak. President Mubarak asked SecDef how things were going in general. SecDef responded with a brief summary of the situation in Lebanon, including US Marine and Israeli force incidents and indicated that though still hopeful of progress, withdrawal there was proceeding more slowly than we would like. The Secretary then touched briefly on US and Soviet arms control initiatives and the US commitment in that critical area. Mubarak questioned whether superpowers would ever produce anything in those talks. SecDef replied affirmatively, indicating a need for patience and also suggesting that the Soviets so far had offered no real solution. SecDef further indicated that there was lots of pressure from many aspects for an agreement and that in his estimation the Soviets were trying to prevent deployment of cruise missiles in Europe. Shifting subjects, SecDef stated that we are entering intense discussion with the Congress over the President's budget which would provide a real 14 1/2 percent increase in defense spending and opined that such a level would have substantial support as time progresses. He further stated that FMS levels for Egypt would probably not be known until December. In response to SecDef's question as to any specific points he wished to raise, Mubarak replied that he had no formal specific issues; but he

330-86-0047, Ex 42, Egypt (Jan-Feb)

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would ask for an increase in FMS levels. SecDef replied that we might be lucky to get what we sought and asked if there were any absorption problems in the Egypt forces to which Mubarak replied in the negative.

(S) Changing subjects, SecDef discussed the \$91 million appropriated for construction at Ras Banas and the Congressional desire for written assurances concerning the use of that facility. He asked that when Mubarak saw members of Congress that he please reassure them that he supported the policies of Sadat regarding use of that facility. In that regard, Mubarak responded by saying that he had no objection to construction at Ras Banas, but the presence of US personnel could ruin our relationship. SecDef asked if he meant caretakers to which Mubarak replied affirmatively, saying it was not advisable now--even for a single person. Mubarak recalled the history of Egypt with British and Israeli occupation forces and stated that people were very sensitive to that issue. SecDef replied that the issue will not arise for some time because of the time required for construction. Mubarak responded that public opinion must then be reassessed; then Mubarak reiterated this several times and further stated that construction there should not be "pure American." SecDef, citing positive experiences with I-HAWK training, stated that there would be a strong desire by the US to have some kind of American presence there when finished. Mubarak closed that subject by saying, "Please don't raise it now."

(S) SecDef said he had one other issue to discuss, which was nuclear powered warship use of the Suez Canal. Mubarak responded saying that he was not against it. SecDef said, "I have two things to ask of you. First that you consider visiting a US carrier when it is in port at Alexandria." Mubarak interjected that use of the Canal was not a technical problem. SecDef continued with a second request for an Egyptian team to ride a US NPW through the Panama Canal. Mubarak responded by saying that there should be committees to study the issue and that it was "not a political issue." SecDef responded we should be able to work out guarantees on liability. Mubarak indicated that they needed equipment for Canal monitoring. SecDef asked, "What was the first step?" Ali responded that he would send a technical delegation for the Panama trip. SecDef queried Mubarak again on the visit to USS Nimitz but received no firm response from him. Mubarak turning to Ali said, "Work it out" and then reiterated that it was not a political problem.

(S) SecDef again noted the sensitivity of Egyptian feelings concerning Ras Banas and said that he thought Mubarak would be asked about it by members of Congress. Mubarak agreed. In response to SecDef's query of anything else which he would like to discuss, Mubarak raised support for Iraq and expressed his concern that if the US did not aid Iraq, there was a grave danger of them being compelled to turn to the Soviets. SecDef responded that his personal feeling on Iran was so strong that he would favor help to Iraq, but US official policy is for neutrality. He

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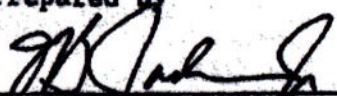


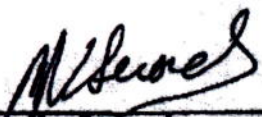
further indicated his real concern was what would transpire if Iran's army broke through in Iraq; and secondly, if that were turned aside, the Iranians would turn to other targets. Mubarak questioned the Secretary on how Iran could still fly F-14s and shoot down MIG 25s. Mubarak further stated that Iraq was in difficult economic condition, and the loss of Syrian pipeline combined with insufficient funds from the Arabs place them in great jeopardy and could lead to an Iraqi request to the Soviets to exert influence on Syria to free the pipeline. Mubarak said that was more dangerous than Iran and that he would raise this with President Reagan. Lastly, Mubarak said the problem of Lebanon was critical and that if the US does not press for a solution, Gemayel would be pushed toward neutrality. There was a brief exchange of the rising Soviet presence in Syria with Mubarak remarking that the Soviets do not really rely on the Syrians. SecDef responded that they are still using Syria to deal themselves back into the Middle East. Mubarak asked if SecDef had heard a report of Mossad and the KGB cooperating.

SecDef replied in the negative. Returning to Iraq, Mubarak reiterated his plea for US support to Iraq and suggested we do something discrete like use of a third party.

(S) Mubarak closed by noting the many problems in the Middle East and said that the key was in the hands of the US. He further stated that there was no confidence now in the area in US ability to affect those problems. Mubarak lastly asked SecDef to consider another trip to the Middle East. SecDef responded that he would try to work out such a trip after the battles of the budget on Capitol Hill. The meeting closed at 1025 on a cordial note.

Prepared by

  
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