

#37

~~SECRET~~

(5)

1-1-1-1
Q



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

24 APR 1981

I-22220/81

INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION OF A MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND MOD,
ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

TIME AND PLACE: Thursday, 23 April 1981, 1100 Hours, The Pentagon.

PARTICIPANTS:

US

Secretary Weinberger
Deputy Secretary Carlucci
Mr. Francis J. West
ASD/ISA Designate
LtGen Ernest Graves, Dir, DSAA
Mr. Erich von Marbod, Dep Dir, DSAA
MGen R.V. Secord, Act. DASD/NEASA
Mr. J.H. Rixse, Spec. Asst. to
Secretary of Defense
BGen Carl Smith, USAF, Military
Assistant to Secretary of Defense
Col E.C. Redican, USAF, ISA (Notetaker)

EGYPT

LtGen Abou Ghazala, MOD, A.R.E.
Amb. Ashraf Ghorbal
MajGen Abd El Aziz Kabil, Armed Forces
Attache, A.R.E.
Brig Gen Mounir Sabet, Chief, Procurement
Office, A.R.E.
Col Mohammed Amir, Spec. Asst. to MOD

67) The meeting opened with an exchange of amenities between Deputy Secretary Carlucci and General Ghazala. Secretary of Defense was delayed by a previous engagement and arrived approximately 20 minutes after the meeting had started. Mr. Carlucci opened the meeting by asking if there were any specific issues that Minister Ghazala wished to address. General Ghazala responded by stating that he was concerned about the deteriorating situation in the region around Egypt. As a result of this dangerous situation the Minister stated that he would like to receive during the current year all the tanks that Egypt had on order (311). General Ghazala cited the meeting that Ambassador Ghorbal had had with the Secretary on March 13, 1981, at which Secretary Weinberger had agreed to reexamine the tank delivery problem in a sympathetic way, and General Ghazala was now seeking the Secretary's answer. Deputy Secretary Carlucci deferred on this until such time as Secretary Weinberger would arrive.

68) General Ghazala then moved to the discussion of a new list of weapons required by Egyptian Armed Forces. The list had been passed to American Embassy Cairo on 20 April, and contained what Egypt considered to be its most urgent requirements. An exchange then occurred between Mr. Carlucci and the MOD on the inability of the U.S. to respond to this list in its entirety by 1983. The

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: AUG 03 2018

~~Classified by: OASD/ISA~~
~~Declassify on: 24 April 1981~~

330-83-0104, bx 3, Egypt (1 Aug - 10 Aug)

18-M-1205

Deputy Secretary then stated that we needed to prioritize and analyze this list in order to approach it with any chance of success. General Ghazala then commented that Egypt had already broken out its requests into priority groups. This list would include:

<u>PRIORITY #1 REQUESTS</u>	<u>PRIORITY #2 REQUESTS</u>
40 F-16 Aircraft	20 F-15 Aircraft
20 C-130 Aircraft	12 I-HAWK Air Defense Batteries
24 TOW Cobra Helos or Hughes MD 500 TOW Helos	8 TPS/63 "2D" Air Defense Radars
4 E2-C HAWKEYE Aircraft	4 TPS/59 "3D" Air Defense Radars
750 M113 Armored Personnel Carriers	450 M60A3 Battle Tanks
450 M60A3 Battle Tanks	750 M113 Armored Personnel Carriers
40 Chapparral Air Defense Units	72 Improved TOW Vehicles (IIV)
6 Artillery Locating Radars (AN/TPQ 36)	5,000 Trucks-various size
	2 Modern Frigates

General Graves then mentioned that DSAA was already pricing out the list, and that the price of tank prices alone would be between 1.3 and 1.4 billion dollars. He pointed out that there were currently some two hundred million dollars in FMS credits available, with which Egypt could start new programs.

48) Minister Ghazala then outlined the problems he faces as MOD. The growing threat around Egypt, the adventurism of the Soviets and the Libyans. He said he realized it is a large amount of money but we are at the point of danger where we must discuss numbers and types of equipment not just dollars. Deputy Secretary Carlucci responded that he fully understood the problem but as the Executive Branch of the government we too were restrained in the amounts of money that could be made available. It is, in the final analysis, up to the Congress. He stated that we cannot meet our own needs in one year or even a few years. We have to go through a budget and planning process. He added that we have no "hesitation on the policy" of making these weapons available for Egypt. It is just a case of the finances available. General Graves then moved to a discussion of what monies are available for Egypt from the current payment schedules. Mr. von Marbod pointed out to Minister Ghazala that this was not a negative situation but was one that contained a great deal of "good news" for Egypt. In the past we have not been able to make many of these weapons available to Egypt because of policy constraints. But that these now were taken care of and we must work to plan a better program. Ghazala then responded that he had a planning problem also. He needed to plan in a real way, the refurbishing of the Egyptian armed forces and to stop the deterioration of his fighting ability. He said that he needed a commitment in writing so that he could plan accordingly. Mr. von Marbod responded that the problem was not a question of how much but rather when.

49) Secretary Weinberger arrived at this point and after a short greeting General Ghazala proceeded to outline with annotated maps Egypt's current threat and the Soviet/Cuban threats throughout Africa and the immediate region. The Secretary responded by saying "If you are in trouble, then we are in trouble." He followed with a statement that our problems today are the result of several years of neglect in defense spending and that since January 20 we have been

working to turn this situation around. He said that we have a National Level policy of helping Egypt to build an adequate defense and that Egypt is very high in our priorities. He finished by stating that "Egypt is enormously important to US interests." A short exchange then followed on the levels of FMS credits that are being sought in the Congress in the coming year. The Secretary further stated that "we are trying as best, and as quickly, as possible to meet your perfectly reasonable requests." Deputy Secretary Carlucci then stated he was sure we could start on a good many of Egypt's requests soon and that we would look at what could be done now. Secretary Weinberger then explained that with regard to tanks we had no production available. The current production is committed to the US Army, Israel, and Austria and that these are non-standard models. The Secretary further added that we have had some acceleration of delivery of tanks to Egypt. General Ghazala responded that this was no more than had been decided last December when he visited Washington. The Secretary said that we are working on providing further accelerations; we can give no flat guarantees, but we will work at it, and give it every effort we can. At this point Ambassador Ghorbal opined that when they (the Egyptians) talk to the Congress they find "agreeability" to improving the Egyptian funding level. A short discussion followed from General Graves on the status of the appropriations being sought.

Secretary Weinberger then requested General Ghazala to see what he could do about getting the transit of the nuclear powered (NPW) USS California through the Suez Canal approved. General Ghazala stated that he was aware of the problem and was currently awaiting a message from V.P. Mubarak concerning this subject. He promised to deliver this message to Secretary Weinberger as soon as the officer carrying the letter arrived from Cairo. Secretary Weinberger was called away from the meeting at this point and did not return until very near its end.

Deputy Secretary Carlucci then moved to the subject of AIM-9L (Sidewinder) air to air missile. He stated that he saw no particular problem with release of this system to Egypt. He stated that we would have to work out the security problem to protect the technology. (Begin FYI: Egypt has already agreed to a standard General Security of Information Agreement (GSOIA) with the US to be concluded by the ministries of both countries End FYI). Mr. Carlucci stated further that he saw no policy problems with the AIM-9L or any of the other munitions that had been requested so far by Egypt.

General Ghazala told Secretary Carlucci that if possible, he would like having an Army General come to Cairo as a replacement for General Rhor, current Chief of OMC, when his tour was finished. He commented that he was an Army man and would like to see an American Army man in Egypt. Deputy Secretary Carlucci agreed, and said this would be done.

General Secord then commented that we could provide preliminary information on the new program outlined in General Ghazala's latest request by Monday next. General Ghazala agreed with this proposed timing. General Ghazala then raised the question of working out a medical agreement whereby Egypt would be provided medical equipment in exchange for allowing the US to preposition medical equipment in Egypt and agreeing to stage US casualties through Egypt in the event of

a conflict in the region. Secretary Carlucci commented that our services are very much in favor of such an agreement and that we would work very closely with him to see that this program is successful. He commented further that General Ghazala should designate some places in Egypt where the US could pre-position equipment. Mr. West then commented that the combined exercises that US held with the Egyptians in Egypt last year were helpful. He had just visited the 101st Air Mobile Division and they were still using the lessons they learned in Egypt. General Ghazala then commented that he was in favor of the exercises also. But he suggested that the US should purchase some Jeeps in Egypt as air transporting the Jeeps from the US to Egypt and return cost three times the cost of the Jeep itself.

45) Ambassador Ghorbal and General Ghazala both recommended that the context of these new discussions be kept confidential. Secretary Carlucci agreed and said that we would issue no public details of the discussions and that neither side would make any comments to the press. Ambassador Ghorbal then recommended that General Ghazala plan to meet with Deputy Secretary of Defense before his departure next week. Mr. Carlucci agreed and time and place are yet to be determined. A short discussion then ensued on the problem of Libya and Colonel Qadhafi. Secretary Carlucci finished this topic by stating that the US would collaborate very closely with Egypt on this problem of Libya. Secretary Weinberger returned to the table and the meeting was adjourned shortly thereafter at 1150 hours.

Edmund C Redican
 Drafter: Colonel E.C. Redican, USAF
 OASD/ISA(NESA)

Francis J. West
 Approved: Francis J. West, OJ5
 ASD/ISA Designate 50 APR 1981

Office of the Secretary of Defense
 Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
 Date: 03 AUG 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 USC 9452
 Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
 Declassify in Part: _____
 Reason: _____
 MDR: 18 -M- 1205

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
 Authority: EO 13526
 Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
 Date: AUG 03 2018