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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301



MEMORANDUM OF MEETING BETWEEN FIELD MARSHAL ABU GHAZALA AND SECRETARY WEINBERGER

TIME: 5 September 1982, 0920-1020

PLACE: GHQ, Cairo, Egypt

ATTENDEES:

US

Egypt

Secretary Weinberger  
Ambassador Atherton  
USDP Ikle  
ASD/PA Catto  
MG Secord, DASD  
MG Smith, MilAsst to SecDef  
MG Tixier  
Mr. Lloyd, State  
Mr. Kinnitt, NSC

FM Abu Ghazala, MOD  
LTG Hafez, Chief of Staff  
MG Sadek, Asst. to MOD  
MG Metawie, Chief of Staff EAF  
MG Hawdi, Cdr, Air Defense  
MG Shash, Asst to MOD  
Col. Shimi, Asst to MOD

Capt Jackson, ISA/NESA  
Mr. Hull, AmEmb, Cairo

Field Marshal Abu Ghazala opened the meeting with a formal greeting to the Secretary and introduced the Egyptian contingent. Secretary Weinberger responded by thanking him for the warm welcome that he had received since arriving and indicated that he felt the Egyptian military modernization was proceeding very well. The Secretary then issued a formal invitation to the Field Marshall to visit him in the US, and to "come soon." Abu Ghazala was noncommittal in his response, and then indicated that he had four items for discussion. These items were as follows:

The first was Foreign Military Sales credit levels. Abu Ghazala indicated that the first-time forgiveness in FY 82 was much appreciated and that he felt the \$1.5 billion level for FY 83 was a minimum. That level was necessary to continue modernization of Egyptian armed forces. Any lesser level, in Abu Ghazala's words, would create a "critical situation." He then stated that for the US, Egypt was the only true friend in the region.

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Abu Ghazala next discussed the forgiveness level of \$200 million, and indicated an Egyptian desire to draw forgiveness funds early in the Fiscal Year. In Abu Ghazala's words, such early withdrawal would "help Egypt financially." In this regard he has recently sent a letter to the USG requesting an early draw-down of the \$200 million.

Proceeding quickly, Abu Ghazala said the next two items were of smaller nature, but still important. With respect to an F-5G program, Abu Ghazala said Egypt desired US help to sell the F-5G to some Arab countries and in Africa, and further indicated that Egypt was most interested in co-production of that aircraft. He said also that Egyptian funding was inadequate to commence that co-production. Abu Ghazala then offered that the F-5G was primarily a defensive aircraft, and that we should consider it as defensive and not as an offensive threat. At this point, Abu Ghazala indicated that Egypt was interested in sale of the F-5G to Iraq. Abu Ghazala further related that discussion with Iraq indicated to him that Iraq was willing and ready to turn from the Soviet supply to the West, and that in his estimation such a move would be beneficial to both Egypt and the US.

Finally, for his fourth point, Abu Ghazala indicated Egypt desired to proceed with sale of the F-4 aircraft to Turkey, and "needs your help to finish it."

Secretary Weinberger then replied point by point, first noting that although not a specific point raised by the Field Marshal, the US and Egypt enjoyed a special relationship, and that it was obvious to him this special relationship was still growing and of benefit to both parties.

The Secretary then responded to the FMS point by indicating to Abu Ghazala that he was reasonably sure the FY 83 security assistance bill would pass. He further said that it was being pushed hard by Defense, State, and the President, through formal and informal interface with the Congress. On the matter of forgiveness, the Secretary told Abu Ghazala that he was strongly in favor of that aspect of security assistance. He then amplified that by indicating that early provision of forgiveness funds to Egypt would not necessarily occur since it is currently opposed by OMB. He further said that the position of the US was under study.

Regarding the sale of F-5G to third countries, the Secretary said that in general it was not likely to be a problem. Individual country sales would have to be reviewed and could present some problems. He said Iraq was particularly interesting to him, and, "Your indication that Iraq might be willing to leave the East is an extremely important point." The Secretary noted that Iraq was a special case, but his remarks should in no sense be interpreted as a rejection -- "There is no automatic rejection here as might have been the case some months ago."

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Regarding F-5G co-production, the Secretary advised it requires a Government of Egypt agreement with the Northrop Corporation, and cautioned that the Department of Defense could not say that the F-5G was the only aircraft or the best aircraft to consider for that program.

Responding to Abu Ghazala's last point, Secretary Weinberger responded that "We would assist in every way we can" with the sale of F-4s to Turkey, and did not see any obstacles. In response, Abu Ghazala said that he thought Iraq would purchase the Mirage 2000 or "go back to the Soviet house" if it could not obtain the F-5G. He further stated that the F-5G posed less of a danger to Israel. Secretary Weinberger again indicated that such a sale was not nearly so out of the question as it was a few months ago. Ambassador Atherton then offered that the Jordanian attitude on the F-5G sale to Iraq would be, in his estimation, more moderate than in the past, and asked for Abu Ghazala's assessment. To this, Abu Ghazala responded that King Hussein would be happy to see that sale. He further said that King Hussein had asked Egypt to send troops to Iraq's assistance, although Egypt had refused. Abu Ghazala suggested we put the question straight to King Hussein. Ambassador Atherton opined that the US should make some decisions first.

Shifting topics, Abu Ghazala indicated to the Secretary that there were no problems with the new 5-year plan. Secretary Weinberger then indicated that he had two other points that he wished to raise, the first being nuclear powered warship transits of the Suez Canal. He said he understood Egypt's concerns and had discussed the matter with Foreign Minister Ali, and wanted to advise Abu Ghazala of that fact. Abu Ghazala replied that the Ministry of Defense was strategically in agreement, and had no objection to the transits. Retreating somewhat, Abu Ghazala further indicated that it was only a problem of the technicians and the Suez Canal Authority. He then added that there were two other points where problems existed, the first being how to prevent the Soviets from using the Canal, and the second being the issue of indemnity in the case of an accident or damage.

The Secretary responded to these points by saying that first, he did not realize there were further questions to be answered, but that we were willing to respond when those questions were posed, as Minister Ali had promised. On the last two points, he stated that indemnity responsibility was assumed by the US and should not be a problem. Abu Ghazala said he would help in the NPW issue.

Secretary Weinberger closed his discussion by raising the Ras Banas Project, and explained to Abu Ghazala that this was a status report, and that we are trying to persuade Congress to pass the Military Construction Bill, which would allow commencement of the Ras Banas Program (\$178 million in FY 83). Secretary

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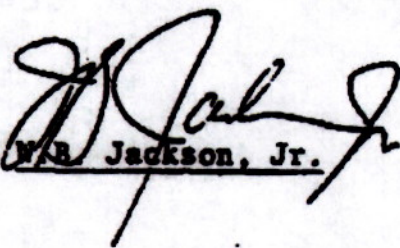
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Weinberger further stated that he was sure the Field Marshal understood the Congressional process well, and appreciated the reasons for slowness in commencement of the project. The Secretary then completed his remarks by saying he especially appreciated the visit to Alexandria and the good work that was being done by both the US and Egyptian military in the implementation of the I-HAWK program, and that he was pleased to see such cooperation. Lastly, he very much looked forward to visiting the air bases later in the day. Field Marshal Abu Ghazala thanked him and after closing remarks, the session ended.

DRAFTED:

  
W.B. Jackson, Jr.

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