

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
JCS MESSAGE CENTER
+++EXCISEIVE+++

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACI IMMEDIATE 4672
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DEPT PASS JCS, SECDEF, CINCCENT, CNO
E.O. 12958, DECL. OADR
TAGS: MOPS, PREL, EG, US, XF
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] U.S. TEAM FINDINGS
AUG. 4, 1984.

REF: A) STATE 228650

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT
2. SUMMARY: U.S. MINE COUNTERMEASURE (MCM) TEAM AUG. 3 VISITED RAS SHUKAYR AREA AND INTERVIEWED TWO SHIP MASTERS WHOSE SHIPS WERE DAMAGED BY RECENT EXPLOSIONS. INITIAL INDICATIONS ARE THAT EXPLOSIONS WERE CAUSED BY A BOTTOM MINE, ACTIVATED (ARMED) ACOUSTICALLY AND ACTUATED (FIRED) MAGNETICALLY. DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE TO SHIPS' MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, BUT CREWS ARE NOT ALARMED BECAUSE EXPLOSIONS ARE INFREQUENT AND DAMAGE NOT GRAVE. FOR THE TIME BEING, MCM TEAM RECOMMENDS EFFORTS CONCENTRATE ON "MINE-HUNTING" RATHER THAN "MINE-SWEEPING." USS HARKNESS, EQUIPPED WITH SONARS, WILL ASSIST, AND ADDITIONAL U.S. EQUIPMENT TO DEAL WITH SUSPECTED TYPE OF MINE SHOULD ARRIVE AUG. 4 TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO EGYPTIAN NAVY. DEPLOYMENT OF MINESWEEPING HELICOPTERS SHOULD BE DELAYED, AND-- IF EVENTUALLY NECESSARY-- SHOULD BE SEA-RATHER THAN LAND-BASED. PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT, WE SHOULD ASSESS AND BRIEF GOE ON DISRUPTION OF SHIPPING THAT WOULD BE ENTAILED. MCM TEAM WILL BRIEF MOD, AND AMBASSADOR PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR EL BAZ AUG. 4. AMBASSADOR WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH PRESIDENT MUBARAK AUG. 5. END SUMMARY.

3. MCM TEAM FINDINGS. BY SEPTEL, MCM HAS REPORTED ITS FINDINGS FROM VISIT TO RAS SHUKAYR AND INTERVIEWS OF TWO SHIP MASTERS AUG. 3. EVIDENCE IS INCONCLUSIVE, BUT INITIAL INDICATIONS ARE THAT EXPLOSIONS HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY A BOTTOM MINE, ACTIVATED ACOUSTICALLY AND ACTUATED MAGNETICALLY. DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE: STEEL PLATE DENTED, BOLTS SHEARED OR CRACKED, POWER SYSTEMS DISRUPTED. HOWEVER, CREWS EVIDENCE NO ALARM BECAUSE DAMAGE NOT GRAVE AND EXPLOSIONS INFREQUENT.

4. MINE HUNTING VS. MINE SWEEPING. ABSENT MORE CONCLUSIVE DETERMINATION OF THE TYPE OF MINE INVOLVED, MCM TEAM RECOMMENDS THAT EFFORT CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON MINE HUNTING. (AT SAME TIME, TEAM FEELS THAT CONTINUING HIGH TRAFFIC FLOW THROUGH THE AFFECTED AREA HAS HAD AN INTENSIVE MINESWEEPING EFFECT.) USS HARKNESS, EQUIPPED WITH SIDE-SCAN SONAR, WILL ASSIST EGYPTIAN NAVY (EN) IN HUNTING EFFORT. ALSO, 26 RATTLE BARS WILL ARRIVE CAIRO AUG. 4 AT 1800 LOCAL TO AUGMENT EN CAPABILITY TO DEAL WITH INFLUENCE (ACOUSTICAL/MAGNETIC) MINES.

5. DEPLOYMENT OF HELICOPTERS. TEAM STRONGLY

ACTION (R.M)
INFO CJCS(4) DJS(1) J3:NMCC(1) J8(2) J4(1) J5(1)
SECDEF:(1) SECDEF(9) USDP(10) ASD:PA(2) ASD:PAR(1)
+OCSA WASHINGTON DC
+CNO WASHINGTON DC
+CSAF WASHINGTON DC
+CNC CC WASHINGTON DC

FEELS, AND AMBASSADOR CONCURS, THAT DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. MINESWEEPING HELICOPTERS WOULD BE PREMATURE. THIS OPTION, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE KEPT OPEN. CLEARLY, ANY DEPLOYMENT SHOULD BE SEA-BASED TO KEEP LOGISTICAL SUPPORT MANAGEABLE, AND WE SHOULD DO THE NECESSARY TO KEEP A SUITABLE PLATFORM AVAILABLE. ANY DEGREE OF LAND-BASED DEPLOYMENT WOULD REQUIRE LENGTHY FEASIBILITY STUDY TO ASSURE VIABILITY. ALSO, PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION, WE SHOULD HAVE AN ASSESSMENT AND BRIEF THE GOE ON THE EXTENT OF LIKELY DISRUPTION TO SHIPPING WHICH WOULD BE ENTAILED SINCE THE MAINTENANCE OF THIS FLOW HAS BEEN A CENTRAL OBJECTIVE OF THE GOE.

6. CONSULTATION WITH THE GOE. AMBASSADOR IS NOW BRIEFING PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR EL BAZ ON SITUATION AND WILL TAKE THAT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE POINTS REFTEL. MCM TEAM HAS MEETING WITH CHIEF OF OPS. MG SALAH AT 1400 LOCAL. AMBASSADOR WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH PRESIDENT MUBARAK AT 09:30 AM AUG. 5.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: DELAY DEPLOYMENT OF HELICOPTER PENDING FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH GOE, AND--IN THE INTERIM--INSURE THAT IF DEPLOYED, THEY CAN BE SEA-BASED. REQUEST ASAP ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY EXTENT OF DISRUPTION TO SHIPPING AS A RESULT OF THEIR OPERATION. VELIOTES BT

OSD 3.3(b)(5)
NAVY 3.3(b)(5)

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: MAY 16 2019

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(Signature)

+++ENDTS+++ MCN=B4217/02951 TOR=B4217/1431Z TAD=B4217/1435Z CDSN=MAK688

SECRET SPEGAT

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SDC, # 79, Aug 84