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## USSR - EGYPT

## MOSCOW PLAYS DOWN AZ-ZAYYAT VISIT, SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE

Moscow, in line with its limited attention to the Arab-Israeli dispute, gave meager publicity to the 27-29 May visit to the USSR of Egyptian Foreign Minister az-Zayyat, who met with Gromyko on the 28th to consult on the imminent Security Council debate on the issue. The visit also came against the background of the Soviet-American summit in June; as-Sadat himself went to Moscow for talks last April in advance of President Nixon's visit to the USSR, and in his May Day speech this year as-Sadat indicated his displeasure with the results of last May's summit meeting and apprehension that the Soviets would fail to stand up to the Americans in discussing the Middle East next month. On the day az-Zayyat arrived in Moscow, the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY released an as-Sadat interview with the Yugoslav daily VJESNIK, reported by TANJUG the previous day, in which he showed his displeasure with the Soviets. The Egyptian president rejected the idea that the "all-out confrontation" with Israel should depend on the June summit, remarking that some people proposed "waiting until Brezhnev and Nixon meet, but we always view such developments in light of our interests." He added that the May meeting last year brought no results, and he rebuked "our friend" the Soviet Union for failing to heed his warning two years ago about the Middle East situation.

The Egyptian foreign minister apparently met only with his counterpart Gromyko, and Moscow gave no indication of the substance of the "friendly speeches" exchanged at Gromyko's luncheon on the 25th. The joint statement on the visit reflected Moscow's evident lack of enthusiasm for the Security Council debate, being held at Egypt's request. The propaganda has given little advance publicity to the session, and the statement, while attaching "important significance" to the meeting, merely expressed hope that the discussion would contribute to a just settlement. The sides appealed to Security Council members to assist in the unconditional and complete implementation of the relevant UN decisions on the Middle East and to condemn those hindering implementation of these decisions and threatening peace and security. The statement noted the sides' "unchanged positions" on questions of a Middle East settlement--perhaps reflecting Moscow's

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advocacy of a peaceful settlement, a position repeatedly criticized by as-Sadat in his May Day speech. And the sides again stressed the need for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territory and for insuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

In a statement on his return to Cairo, az-Zayyat put his Moscow talks in the context of several consultations prior to the Security Council debate, noting that he had met in Moscow with the French secretary of state for foreign affairs, also visiting the USSR, as well as Ambassador Jarring, and that he hoped to have similar talks with other representatives of UN member states in London and New York.

#### USSR HINTS AT DIFFERENCES IN TREATY ANNIVERSARY COMMENT

Moscow observed the second anniversary of the Soviet-Egyptian friendship and cooperation treaty with the usual ceremonies and a message to as-Sadat from the Soviet leaders pointing out that the Soviet Union has invariably given Egypt extensive assistance and support. While az-Zayyat's Moscow visit coincided with the treaty anniversary, the occasion was not mentioned in the joint statement on the visit, which merely affirmed the sides' determination to develop ties on the basis of the treaty. Propaganda on the anniversary, although extolling the treaty, suggested continuing Soviet-Egyptian differences. Thus Kudryavtsev in a 27 May IZVESTIYA article conceded that the complex situation in the Middle East engendered complicated problems which "inevitably also affect the complete implementation" of the treaty's clauses. He found reassurance in the fact that the treaty itself sets forth opportunities "for overcoming the difficulties."

A NEW TIMES article on the anniversary, broadcast in Arabic on the 26th, complained that "certain Egyptian and Arab journalists" invented fabrications about Soviet policy and the Soviet-Egyptian treaty, and in particular assailed an unidentified editor of "a famous Cairo illustrated magazine" for representing the treaty as a one-time commercial deal based on "temporary and incidental considerations" and for equating Moscow's Middle East policy with that of imperialist states.

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