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Tuesday 27 December 1977

CG NIDC 77/299C

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EGYPT-ISRAEL: Summit Results

[redacted] The initial assessment of the US Embassy in Cairo is that the summit meeting in Ismailia was less than a success for Egyptian President Sadat. Although both he and Israeli Prime Minister Begin are seeking to project a positive image of the two-day session and are pointing to upcoming negotiations at ministerial levels, the Egyptian President appeared to have had little success in modifying any significant points of Begin's comprehensive peace plan, many details of which had been published before the summit negotiations began on Sunday.

[redacted] Sadat was unable to get agreement on a "declaration of principles" for which he had been holding out hope as late as Sunday night. By apparently failing to budge the Israelis on the issue of the future of the West Bank and the Palestinian Arabs, described by Sadat as the "crux of the whole problem," he has laid himself open to more criticism by Arab rejectionists and perhaps even from moderate Arabs.

[redacted] The Embassy also believes that there is bound to be some disillusionment in Cairo, and that Sadat will have problems keeping up the morale of his supporters as Egypt and Israel enter into detailed ministerial negotiations in January.

[redacted] US and UN representatives will be invited to take part in the Political Committee sessions, which will be held in Jerusalem at the foreign minister level. Egypt will be represented by its newly named Foreign Minister, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil. In his early 50s, Kamil was most recently Egypt's Ambassador to West Germany. The veteran diplomat's ties with Sadat reportedly date back to the early 1940s.

[redacted] The bilateral Military Committee, led by the Israeli and Egyptian Defense Ministers, will meet in Cairo. Begin indicated that the committees' negotiations will probably last for "a number of months." [redacted]