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EGYPT: Moubarek Taking Charge

Vice President Moubarek is moving quickly to consolidate his grip on power and has expressed continuing support for the peace process with Israel. The apparent smoothness of the succession procedure so far suggests that Defense Minister Abu Ghazala and other key power brokers are backing Moubarek for the presidency. Moubarek is certain to gain overwhelming public support in the referendum Monday.

[REDACTED] the assassins were associated with the Islamic fundamentalist group, Takfir wal-Hijrah- "Atonement and Repentance." Abu Ghazala has indicated that the group had no links to foreign governments, and we are unable to identify any foreign ties so far.

The Takfir group apparently was founded some years ago by Muslim Brotherhood members dissatisfied with that organization's passive stance. Like the Brotherhood, Takfir calls for a return to traditional Islamic values and appeals to Egyptians frustrated by Egypt's economic and social problems and resentful of the intrusion of Western influence. In 1977 several hundred Takfir members were arrested and its leaders executed following the kidnaping and assassination of a former Egyptian Minister of Religious Trusts.

The group may still retain a clandestine network of followers despite arrests of suspected members since Sadat's death.

[REDACTED] internal security forces and the military remain on alert. There have been no reports, however, of additional disturbances in Cairo and Alexandria.

Moubarek is likely to begin a purge soon of the military to remove fundamentalist elements. He probably will publicly highlight the loyalty of the armed forces, however, to avoid damaging morale.

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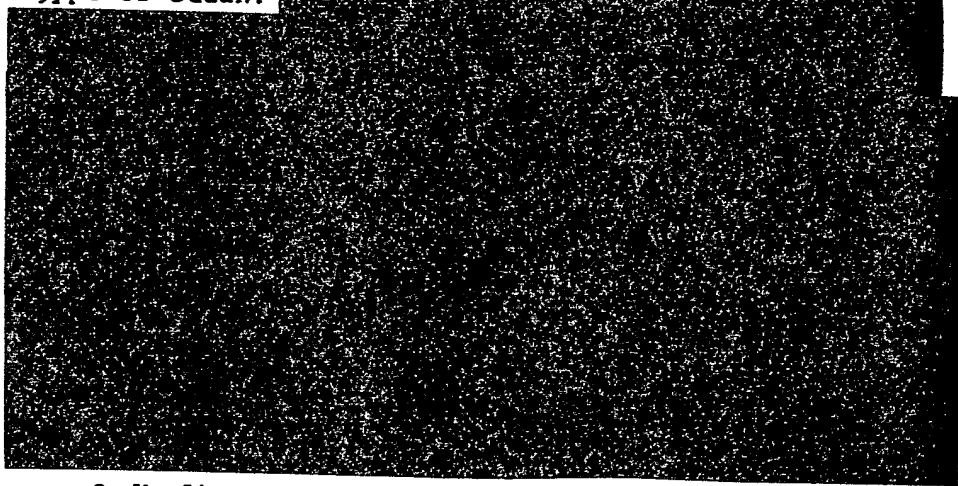
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Libyan Activities

Libyan leader Qadhafi, in a speech on Tuesday, warned Egypt's new leaders that "death will also be their end" if they pursue Sadat's policy of negotiating with Israel. Although he pledged not to intervene in Egypt, his reiteration of support for revolutionary forces there and for Egyptian dissidents abroad will heighten anxieties of Egyptian and Sudanese leaders about his actual intentions. [REDACTED]

There are no signs of Libyan preparations that would suggest an imminent military move against either Egypt or Sudan. [REDACTED]



Qadhafi presumably is preoccupied with his personal security and the defense of his borders against Egyptian forces. He may calculate that any overt move against Cairo now would stretch Libya's defenses too thin in the face of what he believes will be redoubled Egyptian, Israeli, and US collusion to oust him. [REDACTED]

Arab Reactions

Syria and the PLO probably will adopt a "wait and see" attitude toward Moubarek to gauge whether he will respond to Arab entreaties or pressures to draw Egypt

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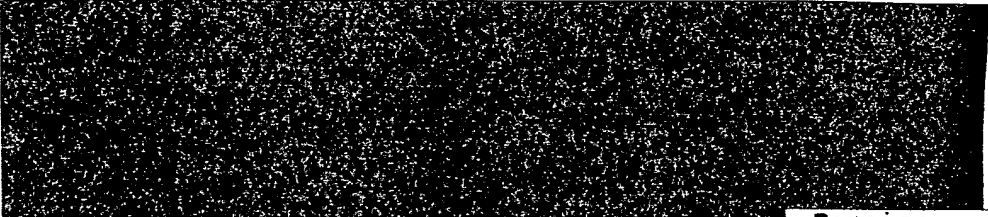
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back into the Arab fold. The Syrian press has greeted Sadat's death with satisfaction but has avoided attacking Moubarek and has urged Egypt to rejoin Arab ranks.



King Hussein probably will attribute Sadat's assassination to his ties with Israel and the US and see it as a warning to other pro-Western Arab regimes against becoming too closely identified with the US. Some Jordanian officials believe that Hussein, as the most experienced Arab leader, will now play a greater role in regional affairs.

Oman, Bahrain, and Morocco have condemned the assassination. The other moderate Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, have reported the attack without commentary.

#### European Reactions and Comments

 Foreign Minister Genscher was scheduled to arrive in Cairo last night for consultations with Moubarek.

Most of the Warsaw Pact  media labeled the assassination a logical result of pro-US and pro-Israeli policies which alienated the Egyptian people. The Czechoslovak press was particularly harsh in emphasizing Sadat's "betrayal" of the Arab cause, 

 Romanian President Ceausescu, on the other hand, called Sadat a close friend of Romania and denounced the assassination as "a murderous criminal act." 

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