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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Intelligence Information Cable

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GROUP 1
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CITE

DIST 01 JULY 1967

COUNTRY: USSR/ARAB STATES/TURKEY/ISRAEL

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs
(C)

DOI: 25 JUNE 1967

SUBJECT: SOVIET POSITION MIDEAST SITUATION

ACQ:

SOURCE:

[REDACTED]

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs
(C)

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(C)

[REDACTED]

1. A. ARE YOU SHIPPING WEAPONS TO THE ARAB COUNTRIES?
 B. THE SHIPMENT OF ARMS WAS TO START AFTER THE
 SIGNING OF A NEW MILITARY AID PACT DURING THE
 RECENT VISIT OF USSR CHIEF OF STAFF MARSHALL
 MATVEY VASIL'YEVICH ZAKHAROV TO CAIRO. I THINK

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[REDACTED]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: OCT 2000

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WEAPONS ARE BEING LOADED ON SHIPS IN ODESSA AND OTHER BLACK SEA PORTS, PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF A PACT. SOME FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED REPORTS THAT THE USSR WAS TRANSPORTING ARMS TO ARAB COUNTRIES BY AIR. THE EXPLANATION FOR THIS IS THAT CERTAIN SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT AT ARAB AIRPORTS WAS DAMAGED. REPLACEMENTS ARE BEING AIR SHIPPED AND REPAIRS STARTED IMMEDIATELY.

2. A. IN YOUR OPINION, WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE ARAB STATES TO START FIGHTING AGAIN?

B. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY ARMY WHICH HAS BEEN SO BADLY DEFEATED BOTH MORALLY AND MATERIALLY TO GO INTO A WAR WHICH WOULD LAST FOR MONTHS, OR EVEN YEARS. THE ARABS VERY CLEARLY SHOWED THAT THEY DO NOT ACT LOGICALLY. THIS TIME THE USSR IS PROVIDING WEAPONS WITH THE CONDITION THAT THEY BE USED FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES AND UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES FOR OFFENSIVE MEASURES. THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING THESE ARMS IS TO INCREASE ARAB MORALE AND TO COUNTER PROPAGANDA WHICH IS

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LOWERING OUR PRESTIGE WITH THE ARABS. WE HAVE EXPLAINED THIS TO PRESIDENT NASIR. HE MAY NOT LIKE IT, BUT WE DON'T CATCH THESE WEAPONS FROM THE SEA. HE WON'T BE PAYING FOR THE DAMAGED WEAPONS FOR THE NEXT FIVE OR TEN YEARS. FOR NASIR TO BECOME INVOLVED IN A WAR WOULD NOT ONLY BE FOOLISH BUT WOULD BE COMMITTING SUICIDE.

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3. A. WHAT SACRIFICES SHOULD BE MADE BY BOTH SIDES IN ORDER TO REACH AN AGREEMENT; IN OTHER WORDS WHAT SACRIFICES DOES THE SOVIET UNION EXPECT THE ISRAELIS AND THE ARABS TO MAKE?

B. AS WAS AGREED IN THE FIRST MEETING BETWEEN PREMIER KOSYGIN AND PRESIDENT JOHNSON, WE SHALL PUT PRESSURE ON THE ARABS TO ACCEPT ISRAEL AS A REALITY. IN RETURN, WE WILL TRY TO PRESS THE ISRAELIS TO AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING: (1) TO WITHDRAW FROM THE TERRITORY THEY OCCUPIED IN THE RECENT HOSTILITIES; (2) TO PAY INDEMNITY TO CIVILIANS WHO SUFFERED DAMAGES DURING THE FIGHTING; (3) TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF REFUGEES.

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(dissem. controls)

4. A. ISRAEL WANTS TO BE RECOGNIZED BY THE ARABS, AND THE ARABS DON'T WANT TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON THIS SUBJECT?

B. WHEN ISRAEL ACCEPTS THE CONDITIONS WE PUT FORTH, THE ARABS WILL HAVE TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL SO THEY CAN NEGOTIATE THE DETAILS. IN THIS CASE, THE QUESTION WILL BE WHICH OF THE CONDITIONS SHOULD BE MET FIRST. IN OTHER WORDS, WHICH SHOULD COME FIRST. SHOULD ISRAEL FIRST WITHDRAW FROM THE LAND THEY HAVE OCCUPIED, OR SHOULD THE ARABS FIRST RECOGNIZE ISRAEL. ANYWAY, IF ISRAEL CARRIES OUT ITS OBLIGATION UNDER THE SOVIET-AMERICAN AGREEMENT, THERE IS NO REASON WHY THE ARABS SHOULD NOT START NEGOTIATIONS. IF NASIR ACTS STUBBORNLY THEN HE WILL HAVE TO LEAVE LEADERSHIP TO ANOTHER WHO WOULD ACCEPT THE SOVIET-AMERICAN AGREEMENT.

5. A. WHAT DO THE SOVIETS THINK ABOUT THE TURKISH POLICY AND ATTITUDE?

B. THE TURKISH POLICY DURING THE CRISIS IS INSPIRED BY AND A RESULT OF THE NEW PRINCIPLE OF FRIENDLY

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RELATIONS WITH ARABS. IF IT WERE A RESULT OF ABSOLUTELY NEUTRAL POLICY, THEN IT WOULD BE, LIKE ALL OTHER MUSLIM COUNTRIES, TO OPENLY OPPOSE ISRAEL. ON THE OTHER HAND, FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL OF THE DEMIREL CABINET ATTRACTS OUR ATTENTION AS A FOREIGN MINISTER WHO CAN CALMLY AND WITH RESERVE SEE THE FUTURE. THUS HE IS ALSO PREVENTING THE ANTI-TURKISH PROPAGANDA WHICH WE COULD MAKE IN THESE COUNTRIES. IN THE EVENT THE UNITED STATES AND SOVIET RUSSIA ALSO AGREE ON OTHER PROBLEMS, THEN TURKISH POLICY IN THE PAST WILL NATURALLY BE CONSIDERED BY BOTH THE ARABS AND U.S.. DURING THIS CURRENT CRISIS, IT WOULD NOT BE WISE FOR TURKEY TO BE ON THE SAME SIDE WITH ISRAEL. GENERAL OPINION WOULD BE WITH THE OPPOSITION. THUS WE CONSIDER THIS ATTITUDE IN FOREIGN POLICY NOT A "DRIFT TO NEUTRALITY", BUT A LOGICAL POLICY IMPOSED BY FACTS.

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6. [REDACTED] DISSEM: CINCMEAFSA CINCUSNAVEUR CINCSOUTH
(PERSONAL). [REDACTED]

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