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SLOWCRAFT
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SISCO GREET
ISMAIL ON
ARRIVAL HERE
FOR TALKS WITH
HAK

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U.S.-MIDEAST

BY KENNETH J. FREED

WASHINGTON (AP)-A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT ARRIVED HERE TODAY FOR TALKS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER AND POSSIBLY PRESIDENT NIXON.

ISMAIL FAHMY, ACTING EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF SADAT, WAS GREETED AT THE AIRPORT BY ASST. SECRETARY OF STATE JOSEPH SISCO, A LEADING U.S. EXPERT ON THE MIDEAST.

FAHMY DECLINED TO SPEAK TO REPORTERS. HOWEVER, HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE BROUGHT A LETTER FROM SADAT TO NIXON DEALING WITH THE OPENING OF ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS.

STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT MCCLOSKEY SAID HE KNEW OF NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS BEING CARRIED BY FAHMY. HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED, "IT IS FAIR TO SAY HIS VISIT REPRESENTS THE BEGINNING OF A DISCUSSION . . . LOOKING TOWARD THE FINDING OF A MEANS TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS DOLZSEASTXCONFLICT.

A DISCUSSION . . . LOOKING TOWARD THE FINDING OF A MEANS TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS."

EGYPT INITIATED THE VISIT AND KISSINGER AGREED TO MEET WITH FAHMY DURING A WORKING LUNCH TUESDAY AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT. AMERICAN OFFICIALS WERE INDEFINITE ON A FAHMY-NIXON MEETING, BUT EGYPTIAN SOURCES INDICATED SUCH A DISCUSSION IS PROBABLE.

AMERICAN SOURCES INDICATE FAHMY WAS SENT BY SADAT FOR AT LEAST TWO REASONS: TO LEARN DIRECTLY U.S. THINKING ON ESTABLISHING ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND TO FURTHER TEST THE SINCERITY OF THE NIXON-KISSINGER OFFERS OF EVEN-HANDED AMERICAN GOOD OFFICES.

THE U.S. SOURCES SAY EGYPT WAS SATISFIED BY THE INTERMEDIARY ROLE PLAYED BY WASHINGTON OVER THE WEEKEND IN HELPING ARRANGE MEETINGS BETWEEN ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN OFFICERS.

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