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SECTION 01 OF 02

TDHAK307

MAY 24, 1974

TO: JERRY BREMER/PETER RODMAN
FOR: HENRY A. KISSINGER
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM GENERAL GUAY IS FORWARDED
FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

BEGIN TEXT

1. DURING HIS LAST VISIT TO CAIRO, THE SECRETARY ASKED ME TO SUBMIT
TO HIM PERSONAL COMMENTS WHICH I CONSIDERED WORTHWHILE REFLECTING
ATTITUDES IN THE EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES.

MORI/CDF
C03345641

2. ON 20 MAY, THE HEAD OF THE FOREIGN LIAISON SECTION FOR ATTACHES
CALLED ME, ADVISING THAT THE EGYPTIAN ARMY SPOKESMAN AND DEPUTY
DIRECTOR FOR INTELLIGENCE, MAJ GEN IZZLDIN MOUKHTAR, WANTED TO SEE
ME ON THE 21ST. MOUKHTAR DISCUSSED THREE ITEMS WHICH I CONSIDER OF
IMPORTANCE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF MY DISCUSSION TODAY WITH FIELD
MARSHAL ISMAIL, WHICH IS REPORTED BELOW. TURNING FIRST TO MOUKHTAR,
SINCE HIS DISCUSSION FORMED THE BASIS FOR WHAT I CONSIDER A DRASTIC
CHANGE IN THINKING WITHIN THE EGYPTIAN ARMY.

State Dept. review
completed

3. FIRST, HE PROPOSED A VISIT OF A US DELEGATION OF OFFICERS FROM
EUROPE WHICH IS COVERED IN MY 0186, DTG 21/1500Z MAY, AND WHICH WOULD
GIVE YOU A BETTER PICTURE FOR WHAT FOLLOWS. YOU SHOULD PROBABLY GET
THE MESSAGE SINCE I DID NOT PUT YOU ON DISTRIBUTION. I DID, HOWEVER,
REQUEST IT BE PASSED TO THE SECRETARY. BRIEFLY, MOUKHTAR PASSED ON

ON-FILE NSC
RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

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AN INVITATION FROM FM ISMAIL FOR A GROUP OF OFFICERS TO VISIT EGYPT AT OUR CONVENIENCE SOMETIME IN JUNE. THE INVITATION WAS, IN FACT, AN UNLIMITED OFFER FOR AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF THE EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES. HE PROPOSED A BRIEFING OF THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE OCTOBER WAR THROUGH ACTUAL VISITS TO THE FRONT, TO ARMY COMMANDERS, AND TO EGYPTIAN INSTALLATIONS OF THE THREE EGYPTIAN SERVICES. I HAVE INITIATED THE ACTION NECESSARY TO RESPOND TO THIS INVITATION IN THE MESSAGE CITED ABOVE.

4. THE SECOND ITEM WHICH MOUKHTAR COVERED CAME AS A TOTAL SURPRISE TO ME. IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THERE ARE 120 NEWSPAPERMEN TOURING THE MIDDLE EAST AND THEIR VISIT HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. MOUKHTAR ASKED IF I WAS AWARE OF THE VISIT AND THEN TOLD ME THAT HE INTENDED TO ALLOW THEM TO VISIT THE FRONT AND BE BRIEFED BY SENIOR OFFICERS ON THE MANNER IN WHICH THE OCTOBER WAR WAS CONDUCTED.

5. THIRDLY, MOUKHTAR SAID THAT A TELEVISION POOL HAD BEEN ORGANIZED TO PHOTOGRAPH VARIOUS SEGMENTS OF THE EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES. HE STATED THAT THE POOL INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE U.S., FRANCE, ITALY, ETC., FOR A TOTAL OF SEVEN COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO HIM, THE TV REPRESENTATIVES WOULD EACH BE ASSIGNED TO A SPECIFIC AREA OF INTEREST AND THEN EXCHANGE THEIR FILM SO THAT EACH COUNTRY WOULD HAVE COMPLETE TV COVERAGE OF THE VARIOUS EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES. IN THE CASE OF THE AIR FORCE, HE SAID THAT AIR MARSHAL MOBAREK HAPPENED TO BE ON AN AIRBASE WHICH WAS BEING COVERED BY CBS. MOBAREK APPARENTLY WAS DISSATISFIED WITH THE DEGREE OF COOPERATION THE CBS MAN WAS GETTING AND STOPPED THE OPERATION. HE THEN INVITED THE CBS CAMERA CREW TO BE HIS GUEST OVERNIGHT AT THE AIRBASE AND THE NEXT DAY, MOBAREK PERSONALLY ESTABLISHED A PROGRAM FOR THE CAMERAMEN INCLUDING, FOR INSTANCE, AUTHORIZING THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF A HANGARETTE, INSIDE AND OUT, AND SUCH PROCEDURES AS THE ACTIVITY OF PILOTS ON STAND-BY ALERT.

6. ALL OF THIS, OF COURSE, REPRESENTS A RADICAL DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE AND CONTROL OVER THE SECURITY OF THEIR FORCES. MOUKHTAR WAS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT THIS CHANGE OF ATTITUDE RECEIVE THE PROPER DEGREE OF APPRECIATION, PARTICULARLY INsofar AS THE US NEWSMEN WERE CONCERNED. HE SOLICITED MY IDEAS AND ADVICE WHENEVER I FELT THAT I COULD ASSIST THE EGYPTIANS IN PRESENTING THE "TRUE IMAGE OF THE COUNTRY."

7. WHILE MOUKHTAR'S COMMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN SURPRISING, THOSE WHICH FM ISMAIL MADE THIS AFTERNOON (23 MAY) ALONG THE SAME LINES WERE EVEN MORE SO. THE FM DURING OUR CONVERSATION ACTIVELY SOLICITED MY

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ADVICE ON HOW THE AMERICAN PRESS GROUP SHOULD BE HANDLED. HE STATED THAT HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE NEWSPAPER GROUP SAW WHAT SHOULD BE SEEN AND, HOPEFULLY, REPORTED ACCURATELY ON CURRENT EGYPTIAN ATTITUDES. HE ASKED ME IF, FOR INSTANCE, IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR HIM TO MEET WITH THE GROUP AND IF THEY SHOULD MEET THE PRESIDENT OR WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE SHOWN MILITARY EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS RECEIVE COMPLETE BRIEFINGS FROM SENIOR COMMANDERS CONCERNING THE OCTOBER WAR. I TOLD THE MARSHAL THAT I WOULD HAVE TO THINK THE MATTER OUT AND WOULD GLADLY INFORM EITHER HIM OR GEN MOUKHTAR OF MY PERSONAL IDEAS CONCERNING SUCH A VISIT.

COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY, THE DECISION TO OPEN UP EGYPT TO FOREIGN NEWSMEN IN THE MANNER IN WHICH WAS DISCUSSED BY THE FM IS A POSITIVE STEP FOR WHICH WE CAN BE GRATEFUL. I WISH, HOWEVER, HE HAD SOLICITED MY ADVICE ON SOMETHING LESS COMPLEX THAN A HOARD OF NEWSMEN, EACH SEEKING HIS OWN HEADLINE. I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND WILL HOLD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH USIS REPRESENTATIVES, AS WELL AS THE AMBASSADOR, PRIOR TO MAKING ANY RECOMMENDATION TO THE FM. I AM CONVINCED OF THE SINCERITY OF THEIR EFFORT TO NORMALIZE THEIR CONTACTS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD. THE MARSHAL, DURING HIS DISCUSSIONS, FOR INSTANCE SAID THAT THERE WERE A GREAT NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IN

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OUR COUNTRY WHO HAD A FALSE IMPRESSION OF WHAT EGYPT AND EGYPTIANS WERE ALL ABOUT. I FEEL CERTAIN THAT HIS SOLICITING MY ADVICE WAS BASED ON HIS ATTEMPT TO HOPEFULLY SATISFY THIS FIRST GROUP OF JOURNALISTS VISITING THE COUNTRY ON AN NON-OFFICIAL BASIS. THIS TOTAL ATTITUDE CHANGE ALSO REFLECTS MORE OF THE SAME CONFIDENCE WHICH EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS ARE DISPLAYING TOWARD US. BRIEFLY STATED, THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT WE HAVE PURSUED THE CORRECT APPROACH IN OUR DEALINGS WITH THE EGYPTIANS. I AM REMINDED DAILY BY ALMOST EVERY OFFICIAL WITH WHOM I HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT OF THE CONTRAST BETWEEN OUR OPEN AND PLEASANT ATTITUDE COMPARED TO THAT OF THE SOVIETS IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH THE EGYPTIANS. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF I AM ON THE RIGHT TRACK WITH THIS TYPE OF REPORTING. ALSO, I WOULD SOLICIT FROM YOU ANY AREAS OF INTEREST IN WHICH I MIGHT BE HELPFUL.
END TEXT

WARM REGARDS

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