

SECRET/SENSITIVE

[REDACTED] 25X1

March 11, 1974

TO: AMBASSADOR EILTS

FROM: SECRETARY KISSINGER *AK*

Thank you for sending me the report on NAMRU. Your approach to Fahmi was correct and, hopefully, will enable us to avoid unnecessary problems here and there.

Warm regards.

SECRET/SENSITIVE

S E C R E T

*****S COPY

ROUTINE

25X1

R 051411Z MAR 74
FM CAIRO

TO WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T SENSITIVE EYES ONLY 051325Z MAR 74

25X1

MARCH 5, 1974

TO: SECRETARY KISSINGER
FROM: AMBASSADOR EILTS, CAIRO 124

1. FOR PAST TWO MONTHS WE HAVE BEEN PRESSED BY CULTURAL SECTION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW NAMRU POLICY AGREEMENT. IT APPEARS THAT WHEN NAMRU LEASE WAS RENEWED LAST JULY, MINISTER OF HEALTH SOUGHT TO INSIST ON INCLUSION OF SEVERAL OPERATIONAL MATTERS WHICH WOULD IN EFFECT HAVE GIVEN EGYPTIANS COEQUAL STATUS IN NAMRU. NAMRU CHIEF OBJECTED AND MANAGED TO GET THESE PROVISIONS KEPT OUT OF THE LEASE, BUT MINISTER OF HEALTH THEN ASKED FOREIGN MINISTRY TO HANDLE MATTER ON A MORE FORMAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL. AFOREMENTIONED CULTURAL SECTION'S APPROACHES ARE THE RESULT.

2. I HAVE DELIBERATELY DELAYED GIVING MY ANSWER TO THE CULTURAL SECTION SINCE I KNOW US NAVY FEELS STRONGLY ABOUT NOT GETTING EGYPTIANS ANY MORE INTO THE NAMRU ACT. WHEN WITH FAHMY TODAY, I TOLD HIM ABOUT THE PROBLEM AND SUGGESTED ON A PURELY PERSONAL BASIS THAT HE SHOULD FOR THE TIME BEING GET THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND HIS CULTURAL SECTION TO DROP THE SUBJECT. GIVEN WHAT I UNDERSTAND ARE ZUMWALT'S NEGATIVE VIEWS ON SUEZ CANAL REOPENING AND OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST TO EGYPT AND THE JOB OF CONDITIONING IT WILL TAKE WITH HIM AND SOME OF THE OTHER ADMIRALS, I POINTED OUT THAT IT IS IN NEITHER OF OUR INTERESTS TO MUDDY THE WATERS BY PRESSING NOW ON WHAT IS BASICALLY A MINOR ISSUE, BUT ONE WHICH COULD GET NAVY BACKS UP.

3. FAHMY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE CULTURAL SECTION'S APPROACHES. HE IMMEDIATELY AGREED AND UNDERTOOK TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE MINISTER OF HEALTH TO ASK HIM TO LAY OFF. HE SAID HE WILL ALSO ARRANGE THAT I CALL ON THE MINISTER TO DISCUSS NAMRU OPERATION, WHICH I SAID I WOULD OF COURSE BE PLEASED TO DO. AS FOR HIS CULTURAL SECTION, HE TOLD ME SIMPLY TO IGNORE ITS APPROACHES ON THE SUBJECT.

4. HOWEVER, SINCE WE MUST WORK WITH CULTURAL SECTION ON OTHER MATTERS, I SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED SIRRI TO LET HIS CULTURAL COLLEAGUES KNOW THE MINISTER DOES NOT WANT THE NAMRU ISSUE PUSHED.

BT
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*****WHSR COMMENT*****

HAK, SCOWCROFT, MCFARLANE, RODMAN

RECALLED

PSN:027505

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